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Opec strikes \$21 target deal

New output ceiling of 22.5 million barrels a day agreed



Kuwaiti Oil Minister Al Ameri (right) shakes hands with Iraqi Oil Minister Al Chalabi prior to the start of Opec meeting in Geneva. (Reuters wirephoto)

GENEVA, July 27, (Agencies): Opec oil ministers struck a deal today to restrain their production in hopes of forcing up crude prices by several dollars in the next few months.

All 13 ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries signed the accord raising their target price from \$18 a barrel to \$21.

The agreement set a new output ceiling of 22.5 million barrels a day, a bit above the current cap but lower

The accord capped Opec's regular mid-year conference, which began yesterday.

The announcement followed two days of talks at the regular mid-year Opec meeting, which was overshadowed by a bitter dispute.

The Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr Rasheed Salem Al Ameri, today expressed his satisfaction at the outcome of the Opec conference and the decisions reached by the 13 oil ministers.

In a statement, Dr Ameri paid special tribute to the efforts exerted by all the oil ministers of member countries to ensure the success of the meeting.

He emphasized the "brotherly and co-operative" attitude shown by all parties which enabled the conference to arrive at an agreement that satisfies the interests of all member countries, "while providing the basis for re-assertion of Opec's unity and its dominant role and responsibility in restoring stability to the international oil market."

The Kuwaiti oil minister considers the new price level, of \$21 per barrel, as "a good compromise that would meet the legitimate interests of all member countries."

Dr Ameri said that Kuwait reaffirms its commitment to adhere to the new agreement, and is certain that all member countries will also abide by the terms of the agreement.

He expressed hope that this agreement would be another step in re-consolidating and re-asserting Opec's unity in order to achieve its short and long-term objectives.

In reaching agreement, the ministers persuaded Iraqi Minister Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi to back off his demand for a \$25-a-barrel target price. Others said \$25 was too high.

The current target price of \$18 has been in effect since December 1986. The current production limits is about 22.09 million barrels a day, based on individual quotas set for each member nation.

Aqazadeh said the new agreement was reached at the highest levels of the Opec governments, so he was confident the output levels would be strictly followed to.

"The minimum reference price is \$21, and the ceiling is \$22.491," he said.

Aqazadeh said ministers also agreed they will increase their production ceiling and target price in tandem, instead of the recent practice of changing the ceiling while keeping the target price the same.

Crude prices — and gasoline

Hill votes severe sanctions on Iraq

WASHINGTON, July 27, (Reuters): The US Senate voted today to bar government credits, arms sales or sensitive technology to Iraq, accusing it of human rights abuses and past use of chemical weapons.

The 83-12 vote for the amendment to a new five-year farm bill came just days after Iraq-Kuwait dispute over oil.

At the same time, the House of Representatives approved an amendment to its version of the farm legislation to cut off agricultural credits to Iraq and re-allocate its share among other nations. The administration has given Iraq \$500 million in loan guarantees this year to buy US farm goods.

"We shall not give to the Iraqi the kind of special treatment we reserve for friends, for allies," said Senator Alfonse D'Amato, a New York Republican and author of the amendment.

"We've waited for Saddam to take a more humane course and it has not been done."

The Senate is hoping to wrap up work on the farm bill later today, with final House action expected next week. A special conference committee will be appointed to work out a final, compromise version of the bill.

Before approving the amendment, the Senate voted 57-38 against a proposal to let the administration waive the credit restrictions if they were found to harm US producers of farm goods or manufactured products more than they hurt Iraq.

The Bush administration has condemned the Iraqi threat to "burn up half of Israel" in retaliation for any Israeli attack on Iraq.

It opposes the sanctions, however, arguing they are not an effective way to force changes in Iraqi behavior.

The administration this year has given Iraq \$500 million in Commodity Credit Corp. loan guarantees to buy US farm products and about \$200 million in Export-Import Bank aid.

The sanctions would be in effect until the White House certifies that Iraq has met its obligations under a number of international accords.

"Who do we figure we're punishing by depriving the people of (Iraq) the food they need to live day to day?" said Senator John Breaux.

The amendment would prohibit the president from providing new credits to Iraq until that government complies with its obligations under a number of international accords.

It would also prevent sale of any item on the US sanctions list or dual-use technologies with military applications. Exceptions are made for humanitarian aid, however.

The United States currently provides no military support, and other than credits, no economic aid to Iraq.

Jeddah talks today

Experts to discuss border, loans and oil policy

CAIRO, July 27, (Agencies): Talks between Kuwait and Iraq to settle the dispute over oil and border issues will begin tomorrow in the Saudi port city of Jeddah, Egyptian diplomatic sources said.

The sources said that the two countries' experts would discuss border demarcation, Kuwaiti loans to Iraq and co-ordination of oil policies to boost international prices.

They added that oil, political and financial experts from the two sides will take part in the meeting to define points of difference prior to

The agency however did not provide any details on the delegation which will accompany Ibrahim.

Egypt's top troubleshooter flew to the Gulf yesterday to pave the way for conciliation talks.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's Arab affairs adviser Osama Al Baz flew to Baghdad and Kuwait in pursuit of an Arab-brokered settlement of the row.

Mubarak announced on Wednesday that he had arranged the Jeddah mediation meeting and said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had pledged not to use force against Kuwait.

Kuwait was expected to press for a non-aggression pact with Baghdad similar to the one Iraq signed with Saudi Arabia last year.

The Jeddah meeting is the second phase of Mubarak's conciliation drive after he had persuaded both parties to stop their vitriolic propaganda attacks.

The proposed Jeddah meeting was the result of a high-profile mediation bid by Mubarak, who visited Kuwait, Iraq and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday in a whirlwind tour.

Diplomats in Kuwait, however, said Baz's visit to Iraq and Kuwait might indicate that more consultations were needed before the Jeddah talks.

Diplomats and bankers in the Gulf estimate Iraqi debts to Kuwait at \$10 billion, most of which it incurred during the 1980-88 war against Iran.

"I am very optimistic that the crisis between the two brotherly nations will soon end," Kuna quoted Osama Al Baz as saying.

Kuna said Baz was carrying a message from Mubarak to Kuwait's HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

Baz, while in Baghdad, handed President Saddam another message from Mubarak.

Secretary-General of the Arab League Chadi Kibi left yesterday for Tunis after a short visit to Kuwait.

Kibi met HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad in presence of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Jaber.

Saudi Arabia today welcomed the hosting of Kuwaiti-Iraqi talks to contain the sudden crisis between the two countries.

An official Saudi source was quoted by the Saudi Press Agency as saying the bilateral meeting, which will be held in Jeddah in the coming few days, was the fruit of the "good brotherly endeavours of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud on containing the sudden differences between brothers."

The source also praised the mediation of the Egyptian president in this

(Continued on Page 11)

settling them.

The sources indicated that the two-day meeting would not issue recommendations or resolutions, adding each delegation would submit detailed reports on their talks to their respective foreign ministers on differences and means of settling them.

The Iraqi news agency reported yesterday that Deputy Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council Ezzat Ibrahim will head the Iraqi delegation to the talks.

Kuwait backs Sinai scheme

\$200m for settlement

CAIRO, July 27, (Reuters): Kuwait agreed on Wednesday to lend Egypt \$200 million for a massive settlement scheme on the Sinai Peninsula, reclaimed by Egypt from Israel in their 1979 peace treaty.

The Egyptian news agency Mena said the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development initiated an agreement to lend Egypt the money to build the infrastructure for an irrigation project on the northern part of the peninsula.

Water from the Nile River will

be pumped under the Suez Canal to irrigate 400,000 acres (161,900 hectares) of desert land.

Mena quoted Egyptian Deputy Minister for International Co-operation Samir Hussein as saying Egypt plans to settle more than one million people in the region.

The first phase of the settlement plan will cost \$925 million and will be mainly financed by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, he said.

Currency Rates

THE Central Bank of Kuwait currency rates against the Kuwaiti dinar on July 26, valued for July 30, 1990.

Currency	Buying	Selling
US dollar	289.66	290.81
Swiss franc	523.70	526.08
Deutsche mark	178.36	179.19
French franc	209.85	210.84
Italian lire	053.21	053.45
Japanese yen	0002435	0002448
Bahraini dinar	079.54	079.93
Qatari riyal	0019323	0019414
Saudi riyal	768.33	771.59
Omani riyal	077.23	077.55
UAE dirham	752.16	755.65
	078.85	079.19

Asian currency exchange rates against Kuwaiti dinar:

Currency	KD	GOLD PRICES	KD
Indian Rs (1,000)	16.600	One kg. 999	3,480.000
Pak. Rs	13.380	One kg. 995	3,465.000
Sri Lankan Rs	7.250	22 kt. per gm.	3,550
Singapore dollar	159.70	21 kt. per gm.	3,500
Hong Kong dollar	37.40	18 kt. per gm.	3,450
Bangladesh taka	9.680	10 tola gold	407.000
Philippine peso	12.630	One ounce gold	113.000

Courtesy: Arabiz & Al Al Yousif Al Mazaing Co.

■ The dollar sank against other major currencies in Europe Friday after weaker US gross national product figures increased prospects for lower interest rates.

Gold prices also moved down.

In London, the British pound rose to \$1.8350 from \$1.8133 late Thursday.

Other late dollar rates in Europe, compared with late Thursday:

■ 1.6145 West German marks, down from 1.6220

■ 1.3680 Swiss francs, down from 1.3780

■ 5.4080 French francs, down from 5.4355

■ 1.1521 Canadian dollars, down from 1.1513

In Tokyo, the dollar rose 0.64 yen to a closing 150.75 yen. Later, in London, it was quoted at 149.70 yen.

Gold fell in London to a late bid price of \$367.15 a troy ounce, down from \$368.65 bid late Thursday.

2 found alive after 11 days

Imelda offers aid

BAGUIO, July 27, (AP): Rescuers alerted by cries of "help us" pulled two survivors from the rubble of a hotel today, 11 days after it collapsed in an earthquake that killed more than 1,600 people.

Rescuers and spectators cheered as Lina Mallorca was pulled from the wreckage of the Hyatt Hotel at about 9.50 pm (1250 GMT). Arnel Calabia was recovered about an hour later.

Foreign rescue teams gave up the search for survivors last week, but Filipino miners and other volunteers had vowed to search until all the missing were accounted for.

Doctors said Calabia, a hotel security guard, and Ms Mallorca, a cleaning woman, were in surprisingly good condition.

In a radio interview, Calabia said he, Ms Mallorca and another man dived under tables when the quake struck, "and then the ceiling fell in."

"We recovered consciousness later and we called out to each other," Calabia said. He said the third person died about four days ago.

"I was okay where I was, but I realized just a while ago that there was a concrete slab above my forehead," he said. "Just a few more inches and I would have been dead too."

The two were being treated at Baguio general hospital. Doctors said they suffered cuts and bruises and severe dehydration.

Calabia said his hand was injured and that a nurse warned that three of his fingers may have to be amputated. Ms Mallorca complained of chest pains.

Both are employees of the state-run Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., which operated a casino in the luxury hotel. They were found in rubble on the second floor of the 12-storey building.

Miners said they heard cries of "Help us, help us" late today. After boring for five hours, rescuers said they reached the hotel elevator shaft and found Ms Mallorca pinned beneath a beam.

Calabia was found in the same general area, lying next to four bodies.

Last week, foreign rescue teams abandoned the search for survivors of the massive quake, which struck July 16 and measured 7.7 on the Richter scale. Baguio, about 130 miles (208 kms) north of Manila, was one of the cities hit hardest.

Officials believe there are more than 20 people still unaccounted for in the Hyatt, one of eight hotels that collapsed during the quake.

Imelda Marcos has offered to donate about \$5 million for earthquake relief in the Philippines if the Manila government and US citizens agree to release money frozen by court order, her lawyer said.

See also Page 6

Search for lost city in Oman

Briton believes he is close to discovery

LONDON, July 27, (Reuters): Sir Ranulph Twissell-Wykeham, one of the world's best known explorers, believes he is close to discovering the "Atlantis of the Sands," a city which flourished 5,000 years ago before vanishing in a sandstorm.

Fiennes said on Friday he used satellite pictures and thermal imagers on a recent expedition to the Gulf state of Oman to find clues to the people of Ad and their ancient city of Ubar, named Iram in the Holy Quran.

According to legend, Ubar, or the Atlantis of the Sand, was a marble city with a fort of red silver encrusted in rubies whose inhabitants lived a life of wealth and wickedness around a fertile oasis.

Fiennes came back to Britain from the remote Rub al Khali or Empty quarter region of Oman to fight a libel case in the high exploits as worthless.

He won damages of £100,000 pounds (\$181,000). American Nicholas Clapp and Fiennes found more than 900 dunes of the empty quarter, about 600

miles (960 km) southwest of the Omani capital, Muscat.

"The space shuttle equipment has been very useful," said Fiennes, referring to pictures relayed by the Challenger space shuttle.

"But the trouble is that the heat-sensing images only penetrate 16 feet (five metres) below the sand. If the city is buried deeper, it will be harder to find."

The people of Ad and their city are also mentioned in the Arabian Nights collection of folktales. Legend has it that Ubar was also the centre of incense trading in the Middle East until it was buried by a great sandstorm.

Tales recount how the inhabitants were turned into one-eyed, one-armed half-monkeys for their sins.

Fiennes said he had found an ancient main road about one mile (1.6 km) long, with both ends disappearing into huge sand dunes. Most of the artefacts discovered were shards of pottery.

Lagos executes 42 coup plotters

LAGOS, July 27, (AP): Nigeria's military government executed 42 convicted coup plotters by firing squad today, it announced in a nation-wide radio and television broadcast.

The men were shot immediately after the armed forces ruling council rejected appeals of their death sentences.

Rifle fire was heard by journalists standing outside Kiriiri prison, where the condemned men were held.

They were convicted of trying to kill president Gen. Ibrahim Babangida and overthrow his government in a coup attempt April 22. Babangida barely escaped with his life.

The rebels held the national radio station for several hours and coup leader Maj. Gideon Orkar read a statement saying the rebels wanted to end domination of the country by Muslim northerners.

The mass-circulation Sun newspaper said the investigation, code-named Operation Orchid, was Britain's biggest child murder hunt.

The police statement said: "Families with missing children will be kept fully informed..."

"We are anxious to hear from anyone who may have been involved in the making of these films and suffered sexual abuse, or has any information regarding the making of these films."

Detectives were believed to be studying the files on 20

86 bombing

Suspect held

WEST BERLIN, July 27, (AP): Authorities arrested a suspect in the 1986 bombing of a West Berlin discotheque frequented by US soldiers that led to the US air raid on Libya, officials said today.

A man, described only as being of Arab nationality, was arrested on Wednesday, said Werner Throncker, a spokesman for the West Berlin Interior Ministry.

Those freed along with Naccache were Mehdi Nejad Tabrizi and Mohamed Jawad Jenet, both Iranians, Fawzi Mohamed El Sattari, a Palestinian, and Salaheddine El Kaara, a Lebanese.

The Justice Ministry announced the releases in a two-sentence communique which said the five, "have benefited from an act of clemency after having spent 10 years in prison."

They have been issued an order of expulsion from French territory which was carried out today.

Iranian newspaper Tehran Times said the release by France of Naccache gave new hope for the release of European hostages held in Lebanon.

Both defence and prosecution said at a July 18, 1980 attempt to kill Shapour Bakhtiar, Iran's prime minister before the 1979 Islamic revolution. A fifth member of the team, who did not open fire, was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

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INTERNATIONAL

Tens of thousands roam Sri Lanka in vain search for peace

VAVUNIYA, Sri Lanka, July 27, (Reuters): Tens of thousands of refugees are roaming the war zone of this Indian Ocean island, often stumbling into combat in their search for peace.

"I've got two sons aged 18 and 20 so I brought them here," said a Tamil woman stumped beside a suitcase on the verandah of a Catholic church in this army-occupied northern town.

The verandah gave her some shelter from the equatorial sun. She was hoping the church would also give some shelter from the army of Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority.

Like many mothers in Sri Lanka's north-east, where Tamil rebels last month renewed their war for a separate state, she feared troops would seize her sons as potential guerrillas.

"But even the church is unsafe. Sometimes the army calls," the woman said. She declined to give her name.

International aid workers said there were between 120,000 and 30,000 refugees roaming through-out the northeast, victims of a 20-year-old war.

Army officers say they want to restore normal life in the towns they are recapturing

from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who held effective control of the northeast until they broke off peace talks.

But civilians who ventured into Vavuniya's gutted and looted town centre encountered slurred challenges from off-duty soldiers lounging beneath the broken shutter of a shop, and sharp yells from trigger-ready troops at a central roadblock.

While international agencies try to decide how to set up camps where they could ensure civilian safety, many refugees flee from one combat zone into another.

Tamil expatriate Sathasivem Patkumathas

came from Paris on holiday last month with her husband and their daughters, aged five and three.

The family was in Trincomalee in the east on June 13 when troops arrived. "We heard fighting and the people were running," Patkumathas said. So they trekked to a village up the coast. "Then there was trouble there too."

Two boat trips, a bicycle ride and some costly lifts from truck drivers brought the family to the Tigers' northern stronghold of Jaffna. "We found the army was bombing Jaffna."

So the family paid 10 times the normal fare

for a coach ride to Colombo. The driver offloaded the passengers outside Vavuniya, 220 km (135 miles) north of the capital. They walked to the church, arriving there on July 19.

Trincomalee has been in army hands this month. Most of the 15,000 Tamils in the town of 40,000 people fled when Sinhalese and Muslims burned Tamil shops and homes to celebrate the army takeover. Now the Tamils are creeping back, to hide indoors by day and huddle in church buildings at night.

"Even in their own houses, these people are refugees," said a social worker.

Some refugees have not moved far from their homes. "I saw an aid worker in Colombo. Then you have internal refugees (from the bombing) in the Jaffna peninsula."

"There are people coming down from the north, and there's the problem of a real (Tamil) exodus to the north, tens of thousands of people planning to go to Jaffna or India," the aid worker said.

Thirty thousand Tamils have so far fled across the Palk Strait to the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, which has ethnic ties with Sri Lanka's northeast.

Pakistan praises Soviets

ISLAMABAD, July 27, (Kuna): President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has hoped that as a result of the policy introduced by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to reshape the international relations of the Soviet Union the Kremlin leadership will take bold and liberal initiatives for spiritual and cultural revival of the Muslims of Soviet Union.

He expressed this hope while talking to the members of the visiting delegation of USSR Muslim Religious Board for Central Asia and Kazakhstan at the presidency here today.

The delegation is led by director of the board and member of the Soviet Parliament Grand Mufti Mohammad Sadyk Yusupov, who apprised Ishaq of various aspects of new freedom given to Muslims in Soviet Union. He also spoke of the efforts being made by Soviet Muslims to revive their religious institutions and establish their cultural identity.

The president recalled that Central Asia was once centre of Islamic learning and scholarship and cradle of Muslim culture.

Ghulam Ishaq expressed satisfaction and pleasure at the new liberalisation in official Soviet policy towards its Muslim population and said this was the result of the positive change in the Soviet thinking inspired by Gorbachev.

War over Kashmir not ruled out, says Pakistan minister

ISLAMABAD, July 27, (Agencies): Pakistan's Defence Minister Ghulam Sarwar Cheema has said a war with India over the disputed Himalayan state of Kashmir cannot be ruled out.

In an interview published yesterday he said Pakistani armed forces were "fully prepared to thwart any surprise attack" by India.

Cheema said India might attack Pakistan when it realised it could not suppress a violent Muslim independence campaign in its part of Kashmir.

"The danger of outbreak of war could not be

Tigers massacre 41

Two military camps in north attacked

COLOMBO, July 27, (Agencies): Fleeing Tamil rebels hacked and shot to death 41 Sinhalese and Muslim villagers, accusing them of helping the army in Sri Lanka's civil war, the military claimed yesterday.

There was no immediate response from the rebels, and it was not possible to confirm the report independently.

The officials, who cannot be identified under the briefing rules, said the killings occurred in five northern and eastern villages on Tuesday and Wednesday.

In the south, unidentified gunmen shot to death 13 Sinhalese villagers, in what could be a resurgence of a Sinhalese extremist group seven months after the government said it was exterminated.

Tamil separatist rebels attacked two seaside military camps in the north with small arms and mortar fire and were repulsed by naval gunboats, military officers said on Friday.

One soldier and several rebels were injured in attacks on the Kankasanturai army and navy camps at the northern tip of the Indian Ocean



Mohammed Ahsan Dar (centre), the chief commander of the largest Kashmiri group gestures during a press conference in Srinagar. (Reuters wirephoto)

island, the military said.

In Batticaloa in the east, one soldier was killed and six wounded when a patrol was attacked by rebels armed with mortars and automatic weapons, military sources said.

Several rebels were killed in the army's mopping up operations in the east, where authorities said the guerrillas were on the run in dense, tropical jungle.

Sri Lanka's top general said on Thursday he estimated 2,000 Tamil rebels have been killed in six weeks of fighting with government troops.

General Cyril Ranatunga, the Defence Ministry secretary, said 785 Tigers were confirmed killed since the rebels launched an offensive in the north and east on June 11, ending 14 months of peace talks with the government.

Nearly 500 security force members have been killed, he said.

Deputy Defence Minister Rajan Wijeratne told reporters that government troops in the North and East have scattered guerrillas of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

"The Tamil terrorists are on the run into the jungles and in desperation they want to kill as many as possible before they get killed," Wijeratne said.

The military officials said militants hacked and shot to death 19 Sinhalese villagers at night on Wednesday in the north-central Medawakehiya district. They earlier reported 20 people died but later said one seriously injured man was taken for dead.

The rebels also set fire to 20 huts in the village before escaping into the jungles, said the officials.

They said 18 more Sinhalese and four Muslims were killed in four attacks in the northeastern, north-central and eastern districts. Four rebels and a soldier also were killed in fighting.

Most fighting now is concentrated below the northern peninsula of Jaffna, the militant stronghold.

Government troops on Tuesday took control of a 10-kilometre (6-mile) corridor from Kilinochchi to Elephant Pass, which connects the food-shipped peninsula with the mainland.

"It is a matter of time to clear up the passage to Jaffna," Wijeratne said. He added the Tiger rebels "seem to be brave fighters facing up to our onslaught."

Lunar dates unity sought

ISLAMABAD, July 27, (Reuters): Pakistan's religious affairs minister on Wednesday urged Muslim scholars and scientists to help end arguments about the lunar calendar which often mar Islamic festivals.

Khan Bahadur Khan told a seminar in Islamabad that disputes about the start of a lunar month in the Islamic calendar were an odd spectacle to the present age of modern technology.

He asked participants in the two-day seminar to use their skills "to solve the problem of determining the first (day) of the lunar month." The group of experts is expected to make recommendations to the government.

Orthodox Muslim scholars say that to calculate the start of the month, the crescent moon must be seen with the naked eye.

Aids will kill 3m women and children:

At least three million women and children will die of Aids this decade, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said in a study published yesterday.

According to the report in the British medical magazine The Lancet, Aids had become the leading cause of death for women aged between 20 and 40 in major cities of the Americas, Western Europe and sub-Saharan Africa.

It predicted that several million children who do not carry the Aids virus will become orphans in the 1990s after their infected parents succumb to the killer disease.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome attacks the body's ability to withstand disease and the Aids virus, known as HIV, can be transmitted by sexual contact and intravenous injections.

The report also reported a slow but steady increase in HIV infections among heterosexual populations, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. (Reuters)

Australians get paternity leave:

Australian men have been granted the right to bring up babies.

The Australian Industrial Relations Commission on Thursday gave men the right to 52 weeks unpaid paternity leave. Australian women were granted maternity leave in 1979.

"It will be recognised as an important landmark decision which allows a greater sharing of family responsibilities between men and women," said Gerry Waven, assistant secretary of the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

"It reflects important changes in Australian society, especially with the influx of women into the workforce."

Under the decision, fathers are entitled to one week unpaid leave at the time of the birth and a further 51 weeks leave before the child's first birthday — provided the mother is not taking maternity leave. (Reuters)

Andreotti appoints new ministers:

Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti pulled his one-year-old government back from the brink of collapse yesterday, by appointing five new ministers to replace members of his party who resigned over a broadcasting bill.

He was left facing two parliamentary confidence votes — one on his new cabinet and a second on amendments to the broadcasting bill which forced the reshuffle — but appeared almost certain to win them.

Both votes were expected to be held on Saturday.

Andreotti presented his list of new ministers for defence, education, agriculture, southern affairs and state participation to President Francesco Cossiga — to parliament less than 24 hours after the reshuffle. (Reuters)

Kenya launches new Aids drug:

Kenya launched a new drug yesterday for the treatment of Aids which researchers said eliminated most symptoms of the disease within four weeks during clinical trials.

President Daniel Arap Moi said at the launch that the interferon-based drug, called Kenron, was not a cure for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Aids), but gave hope to sufferers.

"Kenron gives hope to thousands of Aids sufferers. But I warn all Kenyans that they should not go loose just because Kenron is now available," he said.

The drug was developed by the state-run Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kenmit) in collaboration with companies in Texas and Japan. (Reuters)

Siamese twins separated:

Hasani and Salem, Libyan-born Siamese twins joined at the head, were successfully separated early yesterday in an 11-hour operation, doctors said.

The 3-year-old brothers were in "relatively good condition" and were expected to recover fully, said Dr Wolfgang Koo, chief neurologist at Vienna's general hospital.

Koo said the fifth and most difficult operation on the twins severed a common artery that supplied blood to the brains of both. The surgery began at 5:30 pm (1530 GMT) Thursday and ended at 4:30 am Friday.

The 12-member surgical team was led by Koo and Dr Robert Spatzler of the Barrow Neurological Centre in Phoenix.

Hasani and Salem were flown to Austria shortly after birth and have spent their entire lives in the Vienna hospital. The series of operations to separate them began July 18, with the initial procedure lasting 14 hours.

Koo said it was the final operation that "decided life or death" for the twins.

After a recovery period, the boys will undergo cosmetic surgery to construct a new section of skull, using bone, skin and hair from other parts of the body. (UPI)

US House sustains Bush veto:

The US House of Representatives failed to override presidential veto of a bill that would require employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid pay to workers with new babies or family emergencies.

The vote was 232-195 to override, 53 short of the required two-thirds majority. It kept President George Bush's veto record perfect. He has vetoed 13 bills, and Congress has not overridden any.

Bush vetoed the bill last month after it passed the House and Senate with bipartisan support.

The President, who had voiced support for employee leave for new mothers during the 1988 presidential campaign, said that the government should not require employers to offer a certain kind of benefit. (AP)

Missing skipper held:

Irish police yesterday arrested a ship's captain who jumped bail in France after being charged with carrying 150 tonnes of arms and explosive from Libya for the guerrilla Irish Republican Army.

Adrian Hopkins, Irish master of the Panama-registered Ekusid II, vanished after being conditionally freed from a French jail on July 20. He has been

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ochirbat defends

Communist Chairman Gombojavyn Ochirbat defended himself and the party Thursday before voters who demanded to know the truth behind purges and coverups over seven decades of authoritarian rule in Mongolia.

"I didn't repress anybody," the white-haired Ochirbat told about 200 people from Ulan Bator's 12th election district, where he is running for a seat in the national legislature.

The contest has become the most dramatic one in the first multiparty elections ever held in this long-isolated nation allied with the Soviet Union.

It pits the 61-year-old Ochirbat, a long-time party official who stresses moderation, against a 29-year-old lawyer with no political experience who favours bold steps toward democracy and economic privatization.

On Sunday, the district's approximately 15,000 voters will decide whether Ochirbat, arguably the most powerful man in Mongolia by virtue of his party post, should also sit in the 430-seat legislature, the great people's khural.

"The Communist Party in Mongolia is already going down, not just the organisation but the theory of communism," said Ochirbat's opponent, Ganbold, of the fledgling party of National Progress. It decided it would be appropriate to settle into the head of the Communist Party to use a deputy.

Above: A resident of Ulan Bator reads campaign leaflets as his daughter sits undisturbed on his shoulders at an election rally by the Mongolian Democratic Party on Friday.

Venus

Magellan ready for rendezvous

WASHINGTON, July 27, (AP): Magellan, a robotic spacecraft armed with a sophisticated radar, is ready to rendezvous with Venus and begin an eight-month exploration and mapping of the Earth's nearest neighbour. US space agency officials said yesterday.

The spacecraft is scheduled to complete its 804-million-mile (1,293-km) voyage to Venus on Aug 10 when it first enters the planet's orbit to settle into an orbit that dips to within 170 miles (273 km) of the planet's surface.

Officials said the craft would approach Venus at 24,600 miles per hour (39,580 kph) and the rocket firing will slow Magellan to 18,400 miles per hour (29,600 kph), enough to put it into the planet's orbital grasp.

After a checkout period lasting until about Sept 1, Magellan will use a powerful radar system to penetrate the dense clouds above Venus and gather images for a detailed map of the baked surface of the torrid planet.

Tony Spear, the Magellan project manager, said at a news conference that the only major problem experienced by the \$413-million spacecraft during its long journey has been an electrical failure in one gyroscope.

awaiting trial since his arms-laden ship was stopped in French waters in October 1987.

Police said Hopkins, 51, was arrested in a house in Limerick, 120 miles (190 km) from Dublin.

French prosecutors had appealed against a magistrate's decision to release him. A hearing on whether Hopkins should be returned to jail had been fixed for next week. (Reuters)

Marines search Haughey's yacht:

British marines searched Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey's private yacht, causing a diplomatic rift between London and Dublin.

The Irish government said on Thursday it had raised the matter with British officials.

Haughey was not on board the Celtic Mist when it was searched on Sunday. A Royal Navy patrol boat intercepted the yacht, a converted trawler, in Carlingford Loch.

The following day, the heavily-armed Irish naval fisheries protection vessel Oris sailed into the area raising tensions briefly. (Reuters)

Panic sweeps Dhaka hospitals as doctors call strike

DHAKA, July 27, (Reuters): Bangladesh doctors called today for a three-day general strike starting tomorrow spreading panic through hospitals and clinics across the country.

Hundreds of patients prepared to leave the Dhaka Medical College Hospital after doctors protesting against a government ban on private practice called the stoppage.

Nearly 15,000 doctors — the overwhelming majority of practicing physicians in the country — said they would join the strike to force the government to scrap proposed new medical rules. The doctors were angered by new rules that

would bar government-employed physicians from engaging in private practice and would require junior doctors to work in rural villages.

"This only adds to our nightmares," said Abdur Rahman, a patient in one hospital.

"I have asked my family to take me out of here. I am suffering much pain in my stomach but I'm afraid being here is not going to help," he said.

"How can they take such inhuman decisions?" asked another patient.

"If the government acts harshly to implement the new policy, doctors in all government hospitals may decide to resign en masse," said M.A.

Maje, president of the Bangladesh Medical Association.

The strike would virtually paralyse all government hospitals and private clinics across the country, he said.

Nearly 2,000 doctors marched in Dhaka on Friday demanding the government scrap the rules, announced by Health Minister Azizur Rahman in parliament on Thursday.

"We must fight to the last and must restore our glory and professional dignity," one protester said.

DAR AL-SHIFA HOSPITAL

شارع الملك فيصل مقابل السفارة الإيطالية، بجانب وزارة الصحة العامة ومركز العالم الإسلامي للإسعافات
SHARAF AL-MUTANABHI STREET - OPP. ITALIAN EMBASSY - NEAR MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH & AL-SHAMIRI/REHBEHAN MOTORS

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PIONEERS IN MEDICAL FIELD

ANNOUNCES

ITS NEW ARRANGEMENT FROM

ابتداء من ١٩٩٠ / ٨ / ١

نقطة العيادة الخارجية من ٧ صباحاً حتى ١١ مساءً

OUT-PATIENTS CLINICS OPEN FROM 7 AM TO 11 PM

عناية خاصة حيث تتوفر التخصصات والأقسام التالية

WITH FOLLOWING SPECIALITIES

DEPARTMENT OF Gynaecology

الدكتور نورية خان Dr. Noreen Khan M.B.S., D.O., D.C.O. (London)
الدكتور هندا د. روثوثا Dr. Henda D. Rothotha M.B.S., M.D., D.C.
الدكتور ن.ف.ف.ج.انثي Dr. N.V.F.J.Ganthi M.B.S., M.D., D.C.O.
الدكتور ك.س.ش.م Dr. K.S.S.H.M. M.B.S., M.S.
الدكتور جون.د.أ.د.و Dr. John A.D.W. M.B.S., M.C.S., M.R.C.O.G. (London)

الدكتور ك.م.ش.م Dr. K.M.S.H.M. M.B.S., M.S.
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A Paco Rabanne model wears a black embroidered velvet dress under pyramid-shaped mesh cage closed with ribbons during the Autumn-Winter 1990-91 High Fashion show on July 25. (Reuters wirephoto)



A Paco Rabanne model sports a silver chain mail coat with a matching helmet during the Autumn-Winter 1990-91 High Fashion collection on July 25. (Reuters wirephoto)



A fan-shaped hat



A lamp-shaped hat



A pill box knotted under chin hat

Clang, shimmer and shine

Rabanne presents collection

PARIS, July 27. (Reuters): Paco Rabanne has kept up a reputation made through more than 26 years of unrelenting avant-garde design by introducing a caged black widow to the catwalk.

Winner of last January's Golden Thimble award for best designer, Rabanne on Wednesday mocked the haughty fashion establishment that snubbed him for decades by showing the slinky widow strutting in a cage.

He poked fun at the haute couture tradition of ending each show with a bridal gown by throwing in three futuristic bridal dresses as well as the widow's outfit during his collection of custom-made autumn and winter gear.

A tightly-sheathed model who looked every bit a black widow spider glided along the catwalk enclosed in a pyramid-shaped wire cage, bound with black bows.

The Spanish-born stylist dressed his brides in chainmail mini-dresses in red, white or blue.

Rabanne, the designer who put metal pants, plastic bodies and papier mache gowns on the catwalks in the 1960s, produced a collection that clang.

shimmered and shined. The crowd of jet-setting celebrities given front-row seats at big-name shows were not on hand but the 57-year-old designer received the loudest acclaim heard at any of this week's Paris haute couture shows.

A cult figure for young designers, Rabanne's audience was peppered with Japanese guests, a tribute to his prestige in that country during the years France chose to forget him.

Ironically some of his outfits, featuring rounded raglan shoulders topping a severely cut line, were infinitely more wearable than some of the more richly-decorated and complex daywear seen on other catwalks.

At its most simple, his obsession with metal came in the form of loose metal garlands in gold or silver dripping on body-clinging dresses or chunks of gleaming metal inlay highlighting simple black cocktail wear.

But it was impossible to imagine who would buy a metal-armoured helmet looking over the nose or breast plates that stood out from the shoulders like two castle towers.

When asked who he designed for Rabanne replied: "Women from Mars or from Venus. I have a date with a Martian tonight." Rabanne was awarded the Golden Thimble after the January summer and spring haute couture collections for the inspiration he has brought young designers who now often use metals and plastics.

A fine workman who spends more time with pliers than with a needle and thread, Rabanne proved his inventiveness with dresses made of paper-knit or organza boiled until it formed sausage-like balls of curly fabric.

It was light years away from the chic elegance of Yves Saint Laurent, who returned to the catwalk on Wednesday after months of illness to offer a fiery collection impelled by jungle fever.

Designer Claude Montana of the Lanvin fashion house won the coveted Golden Thimble prize yesterday to wrap up five days of haute couture winter collection shows.

Montana won the prize, the French capital's top fashion award, with 24 votes cast by a jury of journalists. Second-place went to the Balmain house with nine votes.

Inherited disease is in foetal cells

LONDON, July 27. (Kuna): A potential breakthrough in the diagnosis of inherited diseases during pregnancy was reported here today.

According to the report in the UK medical journal, the Lancet, hereditary illnesses are currently diagnosed by sampling foetal cells obtained from the placenta or the amniotic fluid.

Both these procedures carry a risk of miscarriage, it was pointed out.

But a medical team in Australia claim to have discovered a new, safer way to obtain foetal cells which are carried in the mother's blood.

Study links homosexuality, left-handedness

TORONTO, July 27. (Reuters): There may be a relationship between homosexuality and left-handedness, according to a new Canadian study by psychiatrists and neurobiologists.

Researchers at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario found an unusual preponderance of left-handedness among homosexual men and women. They said a similar prevalence was found in a British study in 1987.

The study suggests that handedness may be one of several neurobiological traits on which homosexuals and heterosexuals exhibit statistically different patterns. It also said these differences may be explained by hormonal

imbalances during pregnancy.

"There's a lot of circumstantial evidence that points in this direction, but no one can say it's categorical," said Dr Edward Kingstone, one of the study's co-authors.

He said that because left-handedness is biologically determined and because people with a homosexual orientation have a greater-than-expected occurrence of left-handedness, researchers suspect that homosexuality is a biological characteristic and not a learned one.

But Kingstone cautioned against using left-handedness as indicator of sexual behaviour.

Keyboard player for the band Grateful Dead

Rocker Mydland found dead

SAN FRANCISCO, July 27. (AP): Brent Mydland, keyboard player for the rock band Grateful Dead, was found dead in his home Thursday. He was 38.

It was unclear when and how he died, said Sgt Richard Terry of the Contra Costa County coroner's office.

"We lost a brother and we are very devastated," said Grateful Dead spokesman Dennis McNally.

The 1960s counterculture band, known for such hits as "Casey Jones," and "Truckin'," retains a loyal cult following today. Fans — known as "Deadheads" and including people who weren't born when the band first came to prominence — follow the group from perform-

mance to performance.

An autopsy on Mydland was scheduled for this morning.

Friends apparently went to his home in Lafayette, a suburb 25 miles east of San Francisco, after being unable to contact Mydland, Terry said. He had returned Tuesday from New York City, where the band completed a three-week national tour, Terry said.

Mydland wrote the well-known Grateful Dead tune "Far From Me," and more recently co-wrote the environmental ballad "We Can Run (but we can't hide)," which was used in an Audubon Society video.

He was also known among fans for his "I

Will Take You Home," a lullaby written for his two daughters.

Mydland was born in Germany to American parents stationed there with the military and grew up in the San Francisco bay area, McNally said.

As a teen-ager, Mydland played with small local rock 'n' roll bands. He eventually made his name as the keyboard player with the 1970s rock band Silver.

Mydland joined the Grateful Dead in April 1979 after a stint with lead guitarist and vocalist Bob Weir's side band Bobby and The Midnights.

He replaced keyboardist Keith Godchaux, who died a year after leaving the band.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEW YORK: Given a choice between sex or supper, most New Yorkers would choose the meal, according to a new poll that may explain why so many people think this city is different from the rest of the country.

The poll published on Wednesday in the New York Observer also says that most New Yorkers would rather see a hit Broadway show than have sex.

But given a choice between sex and seeing baseball game, the New Yorker opts for sex. (Maybe here is where New Yorkers really differ from the rest of a sports-mad nation).

The Observer, a weekly, said 72 per cent of about 300 respondents say they would rather have a good dinner than sex while 28 per cent said they'd rather have sex. (Reuters)

CLERMONT-FERRAND, France: Prosecutors charged popular actor Gerard Depardieu with drunken driving Wednesday morning from an accident that slightly injured a woman and her daughter.

Depardieu, who recently won the best-actor prize at the Cannes Film Festival for his performance in "Cyrano de Bergerac," will be tried Aug. 9 in nearby Riom, court sources said.

Convicted, the 41-year-old actor faces 15 days to one year in jail. Prosecutors said his blood contained twice the legal alcohol limit of 0.08 per cent after his Renault-25 collided Friday with a car driven by Jean-Luc Cheminal on a country road near Puy-De-Dome. Cheminal's wife and daughter were slightly hurt.

Depardieu told police he was speaking on his car phone and blinded by the setting sun when the accident occurred. He had been returning to his hotel in Vichy after viewing director Claude Berri's new film "Drame."

Both cars were travelling about 40 kilometres per hour (25 miles per hour), police said. (AP)

NASHVILLE, Tennessee: Country music singer Holly Dunn says her style of music has gotten a big boost from the White House.

President George Bush is a fan who has said he listens to country music on the radio and listens to tapes in the Oval Office. "He's done us a real favour," Dunn said Tuesday in an interview. "He's really into it. Jimmy Carter liked country, too."

Dunn's hit records include "Daddy's Home," "Are You Ever Gonna Love Me," and "Only When I Love." In 1987 she won the country music association's Horizon Award as the most promising performer. (AP)

EVERGREEN, Colorado: Country western singer Willie Nelson has decided to leave a "for sale" sign on his \$3-million 116-acre (47-hectare) ranch in this mountain community home in Denver.

"It's a very nice estate, but very typically Willie. It's not ostentatious. It's more on the homey side," brokered Metro of Metro Brokers at Evergreen Inc. said Tuesday.

Nelson is best known for his songs "On the Road Again," "My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys" and "You Were Always On My Mind." The property, which includes a two-storey, 4,700-square-foot (436-square-metre) main residence, has been a favourite hideaway for the singer, but neither he nor his estranged wife Connie, has visited it for the past several months, he said. (AP)

WASHINGTON: Singer John Denver said Wednesday he has helped establish an institute that will work to save the global environment.

The Aspen Institute on global change, co-sponsored by the Amway Corp. of Ada, Michigan, the United Nations Environment Programme and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, will bring leading scientists together each summer in Aspen, Colorado, to trade ideas.

"This is not just another think-tank," Denver said at a news conference, adding that saving the global environment is "the most important task that faces the human race at this time."

Denver said an education and outreach programme would try to bridge the gap between researchers and people who want to be involved in local environmental action. (AP)



Spanish bandanillo Guillermo Gutierrez (right) is gored by a bull during a bullfight in the northern city of Vitoria, Spain, on July 25. Gutierrez suffered a 20 cm (8 inches) deep wound. (Reuters wirephoto)

DETROIT: Actor Paul Winfield did his homework for his role in "Presumed Innocent," according to the judge who was his role model.

"He picked up that feeling of the courtroom, with lawyers going back and forth, trying to get in evidence they know they shouldn't get in, the exasperation you feel, in the courtroom," district judge Willie G. Lipscomb said at a screening of the new film. Winfield observed Lipscomb's court before playing the judge in the film.

"Presumed Innocent," about a deputy prosecutor accused of murdering a colleague, made its US debut Tuesday night at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The movie, starring Harrison Ford, was filmed partially in Detroit, although the book by Scott Turow was set in a mythical Illinois city. (AP)

VALLETTA: Danish actress Brigitte Nielsen, ex-wife of American film star Sylvester Stallone, and Danish film producer

Sebastian Copel have announced their engagement.

The couple marked the occasion with a service at a small chapel in Malta and then threw a party for 100 guests.

Nielsen told guests on Wednesday she had decided to get engaged in Malta because she had friends on the Mediterranean island. She did not say when she and Copel planned to marry. (Reuters)

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'She Ain't Worth It' on top of American pop charts

NEW YORK, July 27. (AP): "She Ain't Worth It" kept Bobby Brown for another week Wednesday at number one on the pop singles record charts in the United States.

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets: 1. (1) "She Ain't Worth It" — Bobby Brown (MCA). 2. (6) "Vision of Love" — Miral Carey (Columbia). 3. (4) "Cradle of Love" — Billy Idol (Chrysalis). 4. (15) "Rub You the Right Way" — Johnny Gill (Motown). 5. (9) "The Power" — Snap! (Arista). 6. (13) "Hold On" — En Vogue (A&M). 7. (17) "Girls Night Out" — Tyler Collins (RCA).

8. (13) "Hanky Panky" — Madonna (Warner Brothers). 9. (12) "King of Witsful Thinking" — Go West (EMI). 10. (16) "If Wishes Come True" — Sweet Sensation (A&M).

The top 10 country-and-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets: 1. (4) "When I Call Your Name" — Vince Gill (MCA). 2. (3) "The Richest Man on Earth" — Paul Olliver (RCA). 3. (6) "I'm Gonna Be Somebody" — Travis Tritt (Warner Brothers). 4. (7) "Good Times" — Dan Seals (Capitol). 5. (6) "He Talks to Me" — Lorie Morgan (RCA).

6. (11) "Next to You, Next to Me" — Shenandoah (Columbia). 7. (12) "Wanted" — Alina Jackson (Arista). 8. (1) "On Down the Line" — Patty Loveless (MCA). 9. (2) "The Dance" — Garth Brooks (Capitol). 10. (10) "This Side of Goodbye" — Highway 101 (Warner Brothers).

And in UK, "Turtle Power" by Partners in Kryme jumped into the British top ten at number one. This week's top 10 singles, as listed by our Price Match Ltd., the national music retail chain, with last week's places in parentheses: 1. (11) "Turtle Power-Partners in Kryme (SBK-EMI). 2. (11) "Sacrifice-Healing Hands — Elton John (Rock).

Polygram). 3. (3) "U Can't Touch This" — M.C. Hammer (Capitol EMI). 4. (16) "Hanky Panky" — Madonna (Sire-WEA). 5. (5) "Monsi" — Craig McLachlan and Check 1-2 (Epic-CBS).

6. (13) "Naked in the Rain" — Blue Pearl WAU — Mr. Mollo (Polygram). 7. (12) "I'm Free" — Soup Dragons Feat Junior Reid (Raw TV-Big Life-Polygram). 8. (7) "Cops Up" — Snap! (Arista-BMG). 9. (10) "I Must Have Been Love" — Roxette (EMI). 10. (9) "One Love" — Stone Roses (Silvertone-Zomba).

Castro tells rally to mark 37th 'versary

'Bush is obsessed with Cuba'

HAVANA, July 27, (AP): President Fidel Castro told a huge rally last night that US President George Bush has a "sick obsession" with trying to topple his communist government.

"Neither asleep nor awake can Bush forget about Cuba," Castro told hundreds of thousands of people massed in Revolutionary Plaza to mark the 37th anniversary of the birth of his revolutionary movement, which took power in 1959.

"When Bush goes to eat breakfast, he finds Cuba in his coffee, in his water, in his bread," Castro said.

Smiling, Castro invited Americans to send boats to pick up Cubans wishing to leave the island, but it was not clear whether he was suggesting a renewal of the Mariel boatlift. Under that operation, 125,000 Cubans went to Florida during a five-month period in 1980.

"If the Yankees decide and they want to receive these poor, persecuted citizens, let them send the boats and the visas," he said with obvious sarcasm.

The anniversary of Castro's revolution is a national holiday, and state media urged citizens to attend the rally. Buildings were draped with Cuban flags for the occasion.

Despite deepening economic problems and growing international isolation, Castro was on the offensive during most of his two-hour 45-minute speech. He appeared intent on rallying patriotic sentiment against Spain and the United States, the foreign powers that once dominated Cuba.

Accused Spain of collaborating with US "imperialist" aims and he announced the cancellation of a \$2.5 million Spanish economic aid programme. Spain suspended the programme last week after Cuba took a hard line



Cuban police stand outside the gate of the Spanish Embassy on July 25 in Havana. Eighteen Cubans have taken refuge inside the embassy. (Reuter wirephoto)

on Cubans who entered the Spanish Embassy seeking political asylum.

With the United States now on friendly terms with the Soviet Union, Cuba's chief benefactor, Castro said Bush has become increasingly aggressive toward the Caribbean island nation of about 10.5 million people.

He cited the start of Voice of America Television broadcasts to Cuba last March as well as subsequent US military manoeuvres near the Cuban coast.

In addition, he noted that Bush has linked US aid to the Soviet Union to a suspension of Soviet economic and military aid to Cuba.

"See how the sick obsession of Bush goes?" Castro asked. "Neither asleep nor awake does he forget about Cuba," he

said. "It is a shame for the world."

Cubans have sought refuge at foreign embassies in Havana since July 9, and Castro said the United States has encouraged the actions. He cited the testimony of a Cuban dissident who said recently the alleged US activities began last March.

The US diplomatic mission has denied the allegations.

The state department in Washington had no official reaction to Castro's remarks late yesterday but said there likely would be a response today after US officials have analysed the speech.

Castro also said the United States was indirectly encouraging dissatisfied Cubans to seek asylum by refusing to live up to the terms of a 1984 immigration

agreement between the countries.

US officials also have denied that claim and said 10,000 visa applications have been processed since early 1988.

Argentine President Carlos Menem yesterday said he will offer to help Cuba and Spain overcome their row over Cubans seeking refuge in the Spanish Embassy in Havana, news agencies reported.

"Cuba is going through a difficult situation... I'll try to have a talk with (Spanish Prime Minister) Felipe Gonzalez to try to do what any Argentine would do, that is to help Spain overcome its problems with (Cuban President) Fidel Castro," he said, the Telam state news agency and the NA agency reported. (Reuter)

'Did Santos do the right thing'

Crime rampant in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, July 27, (AP): Crime has tripled, Muggers walk free, anger grows along with fear, and Horacio Santos, who chased down and killed two thieves because he couldn't take any more, has become the symbol of all.

The Santos case jarred many of the 10 million people in Buenos Aires, who felt safe in their city until the last few years.

Historians, sociologists, judges, police, government officials, newspaper vendors — most everyone, it seems, has an opinion and expresses it at cocktail parties, streetcorner conversations, radio talk shows and letters to the editor.

Santos was cleared yesterday of charges of homicide. Judge Luis Covasco said the 42-year-old engineer was "non-indictable" because he acted while in a state of emotional distress.

One Saturday morning in June, Santos heard his car breaking outside the house he shared with his wife. He rushed to a window and saw two men, laughing, walk off with their own car with his tape deck.

Santos' home had been burglarized twice and thieves had broken into his car 14 times. Overwhelmed by anger, he gave chase.

When Santos caught up to the thieves on the road, he shot one in the head and the other in the throat. Two bullets, two men dead.

He was arrested on homicide charges and confined to a hospital for psychiatric tests. His wife, Norma, said, "I can't believe what happened. Horacio can't either. This is a nightmare."

The men Santos killed were not career criminals. One was a 31-year-old bus driver and the other, 29, worked in a butcher shop. Both had wives and children.

As Argentina's economic recession has shrunk real wages and increased unemployment, more peo-

Argentine kidnap victim slain.

BUENOS AIRES, July 27, (AP): President Carlos Menem was scheduled to attend yesterday's funeral for the victim of a kidnapping that shocked and angered the nation.

The body of Guillermo Ibanez, the 28-year-old son of a prominent union leader, was discovered Wednesday in the ocean resort Mar Del Plata, 400 kilometres (248 miles) south of Buenos Aires. He had been shot in the back of the neck.

Police arrested three men thought to have committed the kidnapping and killing. Charges were pending.

Ibanez was kidnapped July 6. According to news reports, kidnappers demanded a ransom of \$2 million from his father, Diego Ibanez, leader of the powerful state oil workers union and a former national legislator of the ruling Peronist Party.

The kidnapping was front-page news. The discovery of the body was the main story in every Buenos Aires newspaper yesterday.

ple have turned to crime.

Did Horacio Santos do the right thing?

"I would have done the same, may God forgive me," said Bernardo Neustadt, Argentina's most popular news commentator.

Mariano Grondona, host of the television programme "Key Hour," said, "About 99 per cent of the calls to my programme were in favour of Santos' reaction."

Passero Luis Passero, chief of the federal police, said Santos can't be taken as an example for others because "that would be going back to the law of the jungle."

Robbery and assault have become commonplace in Buenos Aires. Crimes like rape and murder are relatively rare, but some highly publicised cases of violence make people feel vulnerable.

On June 14, two days before the Santos shooting, a businessman who had identified a mugger in a police lineup was shot and killed after the

alleged assailant was released.

Two months ago men brandishing a machine-gun tried to force investment broker Esteban Reynal off the main highway north of the city as he drove to his weekend home. He accelerated and outran them.

According to official statistics, the number of crimes in Buenos Aires province was 122,000 last year, compared to 47,000 in 1985. Argentines are increasingly careful about what they wear, where they go and how they get there.

Police acknowledge crime is increasing, but claim it isn't out of control. Most of the offences are muggings and thefts from cars and homes. Street gangs and drug peddling, like major violent crimes, are uncommon.

Chief Passero said in an interview that the conviction rate is low because of reforms in the penal code made in 1984, when civilian democracy returned after nearly eight years of military dictatorship.

Honduran convicted in drugs death case

LOS ANGELES, July 27, (AP): A five-year crusade by the US Drug Enforcement Administration to avenge the murder of one of its agents in Mexico has led to the conviction of a major drug figure.

Juan Ramon Matta Ballesteros, a prominent Honduran businessman and convicted drug trafficker, was found guilty Thursday of conspiring to kidnap and murder the US agent Enrique Camarena.

The federal jury in Los Angeles also convicted Matta of actually kidnapping Camarena and holding him for interrogation. But he was acquitted of the agent's murder — a crime that has strained US-Mexico relations.

Matta, 45, shook his head slightly when the verdict was read. Tears streamed down the faces of his family members in court.

Jurors resumed deliberations today on the fate of three other defendants in the trial, the second US prosecution in the case.

In the first prosecution, in 1988, a former Mexican policeman and two Mexican drug traffickers were convicted of conspiracy charges stemming from the agent's slaying by Guadalajara's powerful drug cartel.

Torture and slaying of Camarena in 1985 incensed US drug enforcement officials and led to a prolonged effort to bring his killers to justice. This year, a Mexican doctor accused of taking part in Camarena's torture was flown to the United States and arrested by US authorities, prompting protests from Mexico that its sovereignty had been violated.

Anti-American riots also broke out in Honduras in 1988 after US authorities arrested Matta and flew him to the United States. Five people died and the US embassy annex was torched.

Honduras has no extradition treaty with the United States, which added to the anger of citizens who knew Matta as the employer of up to 5,000 people at his cattle ranches, dairy farms and cigar factories.

Noriega surrendered to American troops after the US invasion of Panama last December and is facing drug trafficking charges in Miami.

Co-defendants of the "Noriega group" include Marcos Justine, Noriega's chief of staff, in jail in Panama City; Carlos Duque, the 1989 presidential candidate of Noriega's Revolutionary Democratic Party; Michael Harari, a former Israeli military officer; three former ambassadors his wife, Feleddia; his mistress, Vicki Amado, and others.

Each one of the associates and accomplices ... aided in the illicit activities alleged and was illicitly enriched because of their participation in these activities," the suit says.

The suit claims Noriega was paid \$7.95 million for letting drugs flow through Panama. It alleges he also received between \$4 million and \$7 million for protecting members of Colombia's Medellin drug cartel.

Rebels capture border crossing

Doe's troops slaughter civilians

ABIDJAN, July 27, (Agencies): Liberian rebels are advancing steadily into the capital Monrovia and have captured the main border crossing into Sierra Leone, diplomatic sources in neighbouring Ivory Coast said on Friday.

The sources said the rebels advanced into the suburbs of Monrovia on three fronts on Wednesday and Thursday.

But they could not confirm a report from one rebel source that the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) had captured Spriggs Payne downtown airport.

The NPFL was allowing people to leave Liberia for Sierra Leone, but was not allowing anyone into the country, they added.

Doe's demoralised and indisciplined forces now control nothing more than a few square miles (km) of looted and bullet-scarred buildings in central Monrovia.

Most of Doe's remaining soldiers belong to his minority Krahn tribe. They are executing at random members of the Gin and Mano tribes, who provide the backbone of the rebel movement.

Foreign correspondents in Monrovia reported that Doe's soldiers dragged at least two dozen civilians from houses and hospital wards on Thursday and shot them or hacked them to death with machetes.

European Community diplomats in Monrovia issued a statement expressing outrage at the killings. More than 8,000 people fearing for their lives have sought refuge in a US embassy residential compound.

The president himself is holed up with several hundred troops in the heavily fortified executive mansion, where he is expected to make a last stand.

Diplomats say Doe, who came to power as a semi-literate master sergeant in a bloody coup 10 years ago, is drinking heavily and has lost touch with reality.

He is also thought to be a virtual prisoner of his own Krahn soldiers, who fear they will be massacred in revenge for their atrocities if Doe flees the country without them.

Diplomats expect Doe's forces to be overcome within a matter of days, but there are fears of infighting within the rebel camp afterwards.

The mainstream NPFL, led by Charles Taylor, a 42-year-old US-trained economist, is challenged by a smaller dissident force led by former army captain Prince Johnson.

Diplomats say Johnson's forces control the port of Monrovia and the industrial area to the northwest of the centre, while Taylor's forces, which now control most of Liberia, are attacking the city centre from the east.

At least 375,000 Liberians have fled to neighbouring countries but an appeal to help them has so far received little response, the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said today.

A UNHCR spokesman said that of the known 375,000, there are 240,000 sheltering in Guinea, 120,000 in the Ivory Coast and 15,000 in Sierra Leone.

Tribal killings in Liberia's civil war reached a new peak of ferocity when troops loyal to besieged Doe dragged civilians from their homes and hospital beds and slaughtered them on a beach.

At least two dozen people were shot or hacked to death with machetes on Thursday, diplomats and eyewitnesses said.

The victims, some shot tied back-to-back, were Gin or Mano tribesmen suspected of supporting Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), now only a few streets away from the cliff-top mansion where Doe is making his last stand.

Troops belonging to Doe's minority Krahn tribe — fearing they will be massacred by the rebels to avenge atrocities when their leader is finally forced to flee — hauled civilians from their houses and a hospital ward.

They took some of their victims to a beach near Monrovia's Mamba Point district, killed them and tossed their bodies into the sea.

The rebels overran Robertsfield International Airport 30 miles (50 km) southeast of Monrovia in June.

Spriggs Payne provided a vital communications link for the besieged forces of President Samuel Doe until last week, when the last plane stopped flying from Freetown in Sierra Leone due to deteriorating security.

The diplomatic sources, in close touch with their embassies in Monrovia, said the main border crossing into Sierra Leone fell to rebel forces on Wednesday.



Residents of Sabokang black township stand on the burnt-out wreckage of a car on July 25 after days of faction fighting between members of the African National Congress (ANC) and the traditionalist Zulu-based Inkatha movement. The clashes have claimed more than 20 lives since the weekend. (Reuter wirephoto)

Beware of tepid water

Legionnaire's disease

LOS ANGELES, July 27, (Reuter): Scientists have discovered how deadly Legionnaire's disease bacteria can survive in chlorinated water, especially hot water tanks in hospitals and other large buildings, the microbes hide inside amoebas.

"Anywhere you have water that is tepid, you may have a problem," said John Kuchta, chief microbiologist for the city water department in Pittsburgh.

The problem is unlikely in residential hot water

tanks, which usually are heated from the bottom, and heat kills the sediment-dwelling microorganisms known as amoebas. Kuchta said recently during the American Society for Microbiology's annual meeting in Anaheim.

But Kuchta and fellow microbiologist Jeanine Navratil found both the disease-causing legionella pneumonia bacteria and the amoebas that hide them when they examined hot-water reservoirs at hospitals and universities. Those recirculating-water tanks weren't heated from the bottom, but from the sides.

Kuchta said the problem can be solved by superchlorinating water for short periods of time and by increasing water temperature to 150 degrees Fahrenheit (65 degrees Celsius), which he acknowledged contradicts efforts to conserve energy and prevent scalding burns.

Legionnaire's disease was so named after it killed 34 guests staying at the Bellevue-Stratford hotel in Philadelphia during an American Legion Convention in 1976. An additional 221 people became ill. The disease subsequently was recognised as a leading cause of pneumonia among hospital patients.

It is believed to be spread by inhalation of contaminated water vapour, such as that emitted from tainted air conditioning units in a recent case from mist sprayed on produce in a grocery store. The disease apparently isn't transmitted from one person to another.

Scientists already knew Legionnaire's bacteria could multiply only after they are engulfed by amoebas, members of a group of single-celled organisms called protozoa.

In a laboratory study, the Pittsburgh scientists found the same process allows the bacteria to survive chlorination 10 times stronger than is generally accepted as safe for disinfection of drinking water.

In addition to being physically sheltered from chlorine, Legionnaire's bacteria also undergo biochemical changes when growing inside amoebas, making the bacteria even more resistant to chlorination.

MEDICAL FILE

Pancreatic cancer, DDT linked: Rohm and Haas Wednesday warned former and current plant employees that a study showed for the first time a possible direct link between pancreatic cancer and the insecticide DDT.

The study by the University of Michigan focused on 28 cases of pancreatic cancer among Rohm and Haas employees at its Philadelphia plant from 1948 to 1971.

Other researchers expressed caution at the preliminary results, saying too little was known to definitely draw a link between the chemical and pancreatic cancer, the fifth-leading cancer killer.

DDT is known to cause liver cancer at high doses in mice, but is not known to cause cancer in humans, according to a spokesman for the Environmental Protection Agency, Albert Heier. The chemical was banned by the federal government in 1972 over concerns about its adverse effect on the environment and wildlife and its persistence in the food chain, he said. (AP)

New kidney treatment: A kidney disease that strikes an estimated 100,000 Americans a year has been blocked in rats by an experimental drug that could become a new alternative to transplants or dialysis, a researcher says.

Such a treatment for the disease — glomerulonephritis — also may work for a similar kidney complication of diabetes and high blood pressure, said the researcher, Dr Wayne Border, a kidney specialist at the University of Utah school of medicine.

Border reports the work in Thursday's issue of the British journal Nature with Selya Okuda at the medical school. Ekkid Ruolanti and Lucia Langino of the La Jolla Cancer Research Foundation in La Jolla, California, and Michael Sporn of the National Cancer Institute.

The work raises "exciting possibilities" in a new line of research, said Dr Ira Greifer, professor of pediatrics and nephrology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Centre in New York.

Currently used drugs do not always work and can produce major side effects, he said. (AP)

Malaria parasites getting resistant: The World Health Organisation on Thursday expressed alarm at the discovery that some parasites are resistant to the widely used anti-malaria drug mefloquine.

The group, known as WHO, called for an acceleration of research into other drugs and vaccines to combat malaria.

Dr Tore Godal, a senior WHO official, said the recent discovery in the Thai-Myanmar border region is "alarming" and could endanger more lives than armed conflicts going on in the region.

WHO estimates that the annual death toll from malaria and its complications ranges between one and two million people. Each year, there are about 110 million new cases of malaria.

An infectious disease transmitted by mosquitoes, malaria is characterised by chills and fevers.

Godal, head of the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, said scientists have some evidence that the malaria parasites are also resistant to other drugs not yet used in the area. (AP)

Campaign to save Easter Island statues

SANTIAGO, July 27, (Reuter): The people of Easter Island are launching a world-wide campaign to raise money to save the island's huge statues, which have confounded experts in their attempts to explain how they got there.

The statues of strange human figures that stare across the Pacific island are being destroyed by erosion, fungus and souvenir hunters who have chipped away pieces of the volcanic rock pieces called "moai", which can weigh over 20 tonnes and stand up to nine metres (30 feet) high.

The statues have made the island a favourite stop for explorers and adventurers since it was "discovered" in 1722, and have baffled scientists unable to determine how they were brought long distances from the volcanic quarries in the island's centre of their resting places.

The campaign, launched here yesterday, is designed to raise between \$6 and 7 million to chemically treat some 400 of the 980 or so statues.

Panama govt to file suit against Noriega

Seeking more than \$6b damages

PANAMA CITY, July 27, (AP): A Panamanian lawsuit to be filed in the United States against former Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega seeks damages of more than \$6 billion and accuses the toppled dictator of a vast range of offences.

The Panamanian government lawsuit, obtained from government sources by the Associated Press, includes 11 charges such as illicit appropriation, fraud, obscenity, illicit enrichment, racketeering and offences against the Panamanian people.

The suit asks that Noriega and his allies repay Panama at least \$500 million and that those damages be tripled. It also seeks \$5 billion in punitive damages.

Panamanian officials have said they do not expect to recover that amount but intend it as a statement of damage done to Panama.

The suit outlines cases of alleged assassination, torture, drug trafficking, money laundering, embezzlement, destruction of funds, illegal sale of visas and passports, abuse of authority and abuse of duty while Noriega headed the defunct Panama Defence Forces.

It says he earned about \$700,000

during his 28 years as a military officer but is now worth an estimated \$300 million.

Lawyers John Kester, Gregory Craig and Kevin Hanson contend in the suit that Noriega's activities caused Panama "enormous material losses."

Noriega surrendered to American troops after the US invasion of Panama last December and is facing drug trafficking charges in Miami.

Co-defendants of the "Noriega group" include Marcos Justine, Noriega's chief of staff, in jail in Panama City; Carlos Duque, the 1989 presidential candidate of Noriega's Revolutionary Democratic Party; Michael Harari, a former Israeli military officer; three former ambassadors his wife, Feleddia; his mistress, Vicki Amado, and others.

Each one of the associates and accomplices ... aided in the illicit activities alleged and was illicitly enriched because of their participation in these activities," the suit says.

The suit claims Noriega was paid \$7.95 million for letting drugs flow through Panama. It alleges he also received between \$4 million and \$7 million for protecting members of Colombia's Medellin drug cartel.



A reporter inspects the offices of the West German News Agency DPA after guerrillas entered the building on July 25 and forced a correspondent to transmit a statement over the teletype. The guerrillas wrote on the wall 'MRTA (Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement) Fujimori is a fraud for the people.' (Reuter wirephoto)

Rebels seize Peruvian town

Rob bank, loot stores, free prisoners

LIMA, July 27, (AP): Tupac Amaru rebels seized the jungle town of Yurimaguas Wednesday, and a police station, a courthouse and a government office were destroyed, the Interior Ministry reported.

Sources at the ministry said 15 policemen were killed in the attack. But a communist newspaper released later by the ministry reported only two deaths.

The statement, released Wednesday night, said 180 of the pro-Cuban Tupac Amaru rebels attacked Yurimaguas before dawn and that one soldier and one civilian were killed and three soldiers were injured. The statement gave no details about the destruction of the government facilities.

There were no reports of rebel casualties.

The sources said the guerrillas robbed the town's four banks, looted stores and market stalls and freed prisoners held in the Yurimaguas jail. They blew up electrical towers, leaving Yurimaguas without power.

Yurimaguas, an Amazonian outpost located 430 miles (690 kilometres) north of Lima, has a population of about 15,000.

In Lima Wednesday, three Maoist Shining Path rebels were killed when the powerful bomb they were carrying exploded prematurely. Another three died in a subsequent shootout with police.

In recent days in Peru's Andean mountains and Amazon jungle, Shining Path guerrillas have killed at least 60 members of peasant patrols.

طريق الحاصل

Earth under glass model, Biosphere II, nears completion

8 people to live inside for 2 years to study Earth

ORACLE, Arizona, July 27, (AP): A 2.14-acre (one hectare) model of the Earth under glass is preparing to make its debut in an Arizona desert, where eight people will be cooped up for two years to study their planet.

The \$30-million project, Biosphere II, one of science's most daunting environmental undertakings, has been in the works three and a half years. Its namesake, Biosphere I, is Earth itself.

Its purpose is to test whether it "can reproduce the Earth's atmosphere by a mixture of plants, animals and bacteria," said Robert B. Reicht, an environmental psychologist at the University of Arizona.

In September, four men and four women

will be selected to live in this planet-in-a-bottle, with 3,800 species of plants, bugs and other animals from neighbours.

Within the steel-supported glass dome are ecologically distinct areas similar to those of Earth: rain forest, plain, ocean, marsh, desert, agriculture and human habitat.

"It also will contain enough plants and animals to support itself and the eight 'biospherians,' recycling its air, water and wastes."

Biosphere II, located on a 2,500-acre (1,012 hectare) ranch northeast of Tucson, has been called a neo-Noah's Ark, a super greenhouse, a miniaturised global environment, a space colony prototype, a giant terrarium, a look into the 21st century.

The project developed by space biospheres ventures and financed by Texan entrepreneur Edward P. Bass, will provide a chance to study ways of addressing pollution and mismanagement of natural resources, and serve as a possible prototype for living in space.

The 14 candidates for the eight slots are all single and have been involved with the programme at least three years.

Psychologists are curious to see how they fare cooped up together in a glass dome for two years.

"They've already had to be working together under what I would assume to be greater amounts of pressure than they would expect they would find in Biosphere II

overall," said spokeswoman and candidate Kathleen Dyrh.

"My guess would be that they would probably have somewhat fewer problems than you would normally encounter in the classical isolation experience," said Mary Connors, a psychologist and division staff member at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Ames Research Centre near Sunnyvale, California, who until recently was acting chief of its crew research and space human factors branch. "They just have more options."

The biospherians will be physically separated from the outside world, but they're not likely to suffer sensory deprivation or

claustrophobia, said John Rummel, a NASA life sciences physician.

They'll have the latest gadgets, from video teleconferencing and world-wide phone contact to television, VCRs, computers and even mail delivery in their plush apartments.

The complex will also feature two guest apartments: a central kitchen and dining room; a library and small observatory; a medical lab; offices with videophones; a tissue culture lab; woodworking, electrical and machine shops; a sewing room; and recreation centre with exercise facilities and a meeting room.

The command centre will have computer work stations, teleconferencing capabilities

and networking with the project's operations centre.

And the eight will have unusual options for getting away from each other, such as stargazing from their own rain forest or ocean beach.

Crew members will be allowed to leave if health or extreme family emergencies necessitate, Connors said.

Roy Wallford, the only physician seeking one of the eight slots, says he thinks the biggest problem may be overwork.

Biosphere spokeswoman Kathleen Dyrh, another candidate, said the selection process focuses on a ability to work together, problem-solving skills, open-mindedness and professionalism.



Press photographers, reporters and TV cameramen cluster around scientist Colin Andrews on a hill overlooking the cornfields of Wiltshire. Hoaxers created new circles during the night on July 24, while the scientists had equipment costing several million pounds sterling trained on the area. The circles can be seen left, over the tents of the watchers. (Reuters wirephoto)

Not a close encounter

Aliens hoax in UK

BRAITTON CAMP, England, July 27, (Reuters): Flashing orange lights, circles of flattened corn and excited scientists had Britain agog with vision of aliens landing deep in the heart of rural England.

"We have everything on film," enthused scientist Colin Andrews, conducting a project to crack the centuries-old mystery of the cornfield circles which have been put down to whirlwinds as well as creatures from outer space.

"We do have something of great, great significance," Andrews told British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) television on Wednesday. Asked by an increasingly incredulous interviewer if it could be a hoax, Andrews was adamant: "No, not indeed."

His vivid description of night cameras capturing the phenomenon conjured up images from Steven Spielberg's science fiction classic "Close Encounters of the Third Kind". But no spacecraft had landed and no alien had emerged.

In fact closer inspection of the circles uncovered children's board games, wooden crosses and footmarks proving that it was a trick and the scientists with their thermal imagers and low-light specialist cameras had been duped.

To make matters worse, the hoaxers, who have not come forward, flew over in three light aircraft just as scientists approached the area in the centre of the fake circles.

Putting on a brave face, the crestfallen Andrews, who had given a detailed account of flashing lights and a series of major ground markings to the BBC, admitted his initial statement might have been a little over-enthusiastic.

Andrews' premature claim brought the media, scientists, sight-seers, hippy travellers and soldiers from a nearby base to peer from a hillside prehistoric fort at the elaborate hoax near Braitton in the southern English county of Wiltshire.

As ice-cream sellers peddled cornets in the sweltering heat, the crowd, which included members of the self-styled British Scapto Society, looked down at the cornfield and discussed who had staged the event.

Some thought the media, some the makers of the children's game and others young farmers out for fun. One theory that it was the work of devil worshippers was dismissed.

"Someone is having a laugh at our expense," said Andrews looking at the fake circles. "It's sad, very sad," he said from the vantage point below which he carved a huge horse in the chalk hillsides.

Wiltshire, a farming county where many authentic circles have been recorded in Andrews' book "Circular Evidence", also contains ancient monuments, never fully explained, like the huge standing stones at Stonehenge and Avebury.

Andrews said the prank had not damaged the credibility of his three-week crop-watch which involves Japanese television, the BBC, more than £1 million (\$1.8 million) worth of equipment and a team of 60 people.

The venture has conjured up a "silly season" on the scale of previous years' searches for the legendary Loch Ness monster, Scotland's lake-dwelling creature, occasionally sighted, never found.

Just as in the past when mini-submarines probed the murky depths of Loch Ness, teams from Japan, the United States, West Germany and Britain are zooming in on the fields to try and secure on film the making of the saucer-shaped areas.

"I just wish somebody would go and capture the bloody Loch Ness monster and get all these people off my hand," said farmer Jonathan King, owner of the cornfield with the fake circles.

The authentic circles, which have puzzled countryfolk since the Middle Ages, are no midsummer night's dream. Swirled into precise, symmetrical patterns they crop up regularly in Wiltshire's rolling cornfields.

Engineers on the project have ruled out whirlwinds, hoodlums on motorbikes, fighting deer or helicopters as possible causes.

Centuries ago superstitious country people believed the circles were the work of the devil. One explanation blamed spoil crops on "Mowing Devils" which they believed were taking.

Last month's edition of the New Scientist journal published an article saying the circles were caused by weather conditions creating whirlwinds and electrical discharges in the atmosphere.

The author, Terence Meaden, said his theory could explain the flashing lights and patterns of flattened corn.

Andrews shot this down and expounds his theory which centres on "an airborne approach by some form of consciousness, aware of its location and responding to colour and man-made features."

"Beings from outer space?"

"Martians, oh no, not here, that would be towards Wiltshire," said one ancient son of the soil pointing to a nearby village with a wry smile.

Successor to Runcie vows to be firm

LONDON, July 27, (AP): The next archbishop of Canterbury, who will lead the world's 70 million Anglicans to the new millennium, says he won't be afraid to speak out on social and political issues.

"I believe there is a need for bishops to lead and show firm leadership. That's been my style in all the jobs I have held," Bishop George Carey said Wednesday after his surprise appointment was announced by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

"You can't be an other worldly archbishop. You've got to be a spiritual archbishop who is concerned about God and the implications this has for life today," Carey told a news conference at Lambeth Palace.

The man he succeeds, Archbishop Robert Runcie, retires on Jan 31, 1991. Carey will then become the 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury, primate of all England and metropolitan. Augustine the missionary from Rome first held the post 14 centuries ago.

Retire

Bishops and archbishops must retire in their 70th year. So Carey, 54, faces a 16-year-tenure as spiritual head of the state church and Anglican leader.

He has been a bishop for only 2-1/2 years and was a total outsider in the Canterbury race.

Carey said his age aided him — favourites Archbishop of York John Habgood and Bishop of Liverpool David Sheppard are in their sixties.

Carey's steady-as-a-rock theology combined with understanding of ordinary people and political moderation were also liked, church sources said.

Runcie, who leaned toward high church Anglican-Catholicism, antagonised conservatives in the church and Parliament by criticising what most of the bishops see as a widening gulf between rich and poor caused by Thatcher's monetary policies.

There was no immediate sign that Carey will be much softer. He made headlines as soon as he became a bishop by saying state nurses agitating for more pay were paid "a pittance."

He is a low church Evangelical who rests his belief firmly on the Bible, favours women priests — though the church does not — and wants closer relations with other churches.

Green

A keen conservationist, he says "God is green" and he pledged to "keep thumping away on the environment."

His appointment was greeted with incredulity by Archdeacon of York George Austin, one of the Anglo-Catholics who dislike Biblical fundamentalism and women priests.

"I was absolutely astonished when I heard about it," said Austin, who described Carey as a "nice man" but his appointment as "inexplicable."

But the news also dismayed the lesbian and gay Christian movement, which has about 1,000 of the church's 11,000 clergy as members.

"His general secretary, the Rev Richard Kiker, predicted there could be a 'head-on collision' between the forces of conservatism which Bishop Carey represents and those seeking to prepare the church for a more adequate theology on sexuality."

Support came from Bishop of Oxford Richard Harries, who said: "I expect the church will be stronger in 10 years under Bishop Carey's leadership."

Aids infection detected

Rethink on health care

ATLANTA, July 27, (Reuters): US health investigators for the first time have documented a case of a person who might have contracted Aids in a medical procedure from a carrier of the virus — a dentist.

The US Centres for Disease Control (CDC) said in releasing its report on Thursday it had no conclusive proof that the woman was infected from contact with the dentist but it noted her type of the Aids virus was similar to the strain affecting the dentist.

The federal agency said the case of an unidentified woman who developed the disease after she had two wisdom teeth extracted by an Aids-infected dentist had prompted the CDC to rethink guidelines for health care.

Dr Harold Jaffe, deputy science director in the

CDC's Aids programme, told Reuters it marks the first known case of suspected Aids transmission from a physician or dentist to a patient.

"There are a whole series of questions that I think were coming up anyway, and this case has just accelerated that consideration," Jaffe said in an interview.

The report said the woman developed a sore throat four weeks after her teeth were pulled. Two years later, she was diagnosed with a form of pneumonia strongly associated with Aids and she tested positive for the killer virus.

The CDC said a detailed investigation was conducted and health experts could find no other explanation for her Aids infection.



Six men died and seven others were injured Wednesday when their helicopter crashed into the North Sea, 100 metres from the oil platform where it was to land, the Shell Oil company said in London. Above: A survivor from the helicopter crash is transferred from an ambulance to a hospital in Aberdeen on Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Epilepsy linked to genetics

BAR HARBOR, Maine, July 27, (AP): A study of the body's energy-producing genes has led a US researcher to identify the molecular defect causing a form of epilepsy.

"It's the first epilepsy that's ever been worked out at the molecular level," said Douglas Wallace of Emory University in Atlanta. He spoke Thursday at a genetics meeting at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor.

In a separate study, Wallace reported that nearly all American Indians are descendants of a single small band of pioneers who walked across the Bering Strait from Asia 15,000 to 30,000 years ago.

The form of epilepsy, Wallace studied is called myoclonic epilepsy and ragged-red fibre disease. The discovery that it is related to a genetic defect in the body's energy-producing machines, called mitochondria, underscores the importance of these "little fireplaces in the body," Wallace said.

He was able to show that this disease, which can produce severe, hand-dropping muscle spasms, is an inherited illness. Its origin until now has been completely unknown, Wallace said.

Although the discovery will not lead immediately to a new treatment, it is an important step toward that goal, he said.

In his study of American Indians, Wallace showed that the descendants of the pioneers who crossed the Bering Strait make up 95 per cent of American Indians.

UK poll tax rioter jailed

LONDON, July 27, (AP): A man who kicked and punched a police van during the March 31 poll tax riot in Trafalgar Square was jailed yesterday for two years.

Southwark Crown Court Judge Geoffrey Rivlin sentenced Simon O'Reilly after he was found guilty of violent disorder and criminal damage.

The 22-year-old labourer is the first person to be convicted of violent disorder in the disturbances which broke out during a demonstration by 40,000 people against the new community charge, or poll tax.

FAA to ground pilots with drug, alcohol conviction

WASHINGTON, July 27, (AP): The Federal Aviation Administration adopted a rule yesterday designed to ground pilots who violate drunken driving laws or are convicted of traffic offences involving drugs.

"This kind of behaviour indicates an attitude that we believe is not compatible with safe flying," said aviation agency administrator James B. Busey.

Individuals applying for an FAA-required medical certificate must consent to the release of information from the National Driver Register to enable the aviation administration to obtain and review motor vehicle offense information.

Pilots also would be required to provide written notification to the

FAA on each alcohol or drug-related driving conviction or administrative action within 60 days after it occurred.

The FAA could deny an application for a pilot certificate or take action to suspend or revoke an existing certificate if the pilot received two or more alcohol or drug-related convictions or administrative actions within three years after the rule takes effect.

The Air Line Pilots Association called the rule a "witch hunt" and said: "The existence of alcohol-related driving convictions does not correlate to flying a commercial airliner while intoxicated. A federal district court upheld this principle,

a food shortage.

The Red Cross was allowed to bring food into the reservations only twice during the police blockade, which began on July 11.

The dispute, which has at times turned violent, erupted after the Mohawks set up a road barricade to protest against the expansion of a golf course on land they claim as their ancestral territory. An officer from the Quebec provincial police died in an unsuccessful assault on the barricade.

Quebec ends blockade of food, medicine to Mohawks

MONTREAL, July 27, (Reuters): The Canadian province of Quebec, engaged in a land dispute with native Mohawk Indians, on Thursday ended a 15-day blockade of food and medical supplies to two Indian reservations.

Three senior members of Quebec's government travelled to the town of Oka, near Montreal, to announce there would be no more restrictions on the delivery of food and medical supplies through police barricades leading to the Mohawk reservations.

"People within those communities will be able to go back and forth and purchase their food," said John Caccia, Quebec's native affairs minister.

The Quebec government has come under fierce criticism from human rights organisations for trying to cut off food from the reservations.

Two truckloads of food being held for the Indians at Oka by Trappist monks were allowed into the reservation, temporarily easing

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INTERNATIONAL



South Korean dissidents trying to enter the border with the North scuffle with police at Imjingak July 27. (Reuters wirephoto)

Koreas fail to agree

Border crossing put off second time

SEOUL, July 27, (AP) North and South Korea failed to agree today on conditions permitting five North Koreans to cross the heavily armed border, forcing the crossing to be cancelled for the second time in two days.

South Korean officials said they received a telephone call from communist officials at mid-afternoon expressing "profound disappointment" and blaming the Seoul government for a "blockade."

Choi Byong-bo, spokesman for South Korea's National Unification Ministry, said North Korea failed to agree on previously negotiated provisions involving housing and transportation for the five visitors.

The two sides exchanged several messages today after the five North Koreans showed up at the border village of Panmunjom, about 35 miles (56 kms) northwest of Seoul.

About 50 South Korean dissidents carrying flags and placards gathered to welcome the North Koreans at Freedom Bridge on the outskirts of the demilitarized zone.

"Let's advance national unification by holding the pan-national rally," they shouted in unison.

When about 200 riot police blocked the group from marching onto the bridge toward the border, dissidents chanted, "whose country is this? why are we blocked from walking?"

If allowed, the five would be the first civilians to cross the Korean border with the approval of both

governments since a three-day family exchange programme in 1985.

It was apparently coincidence that today was the anniversary of the ceasefire which 37 years ago ended the 1950-53 Korean war. More than 4 million soldiers and civilians were killed and an estimated 10 million Koreans became separated from their families.

North and South Korea were divided in 1945 at the end of World War II. The border between them is tightly sealed and remains the most heavily fortified in the world.

The five North Koreans had been invited to Seoul by South Korean dissident groups to help plan a joint unification rally in mid-August.

The rally would mark the first contact between civilian organisations of the two Koreas.

In the past, South Korean authorities have blocked such contacts out of fear the communist North would turn them into radical anti-Seoul protests.

The renewed possibility of a border crossing came one day after the two Koreas signed a historic agreement setting up the first-ever meeting between their prime ministers. The agenda called for efforts to help end four decades of military and political confrontation.

The outcome of the proposed joint unification rally and the premiers' talks are viewed as a gauge to further inter-Korean relations, which are generally tense.

Survivors found after 11 days

Air escort for relief operations as NPA guerrillas fire at copters

BAGUIO, July 27, (Agencies) Rescuers recovered two survivors today from the rubble of the Hyatt Hotel 11 days after it collapsed in a devastating earthquake that killed more than 1,600 people, witnesses said.

Rescuers and spectators cheered as Eliza Mallorca was pulled out from the wreckage about 9.50 pm (1250 GMT), witnesses said. The second survivor, Arnold Calavia, was recovered about an hour later.

Both were employees of the state-run Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., which operated a gambling casino in the luxury hotel.

They were taken to the US air force clinic at nearby Camp John Hay and were later

transferred to the Baguio general hospital. Doctors said they were suffering from cuts and bruises and severe dehydration but were in surprisingly good condition after their ordeal.

Meanwhile, the air force chief today ordered gunships and rocket-firing planes to escort helicopters carrying supplies to earthquake-stricken villages after communist rebels fired at two of the aircraft.

Maj. Gen. Gerardo Protacio said he issued the order after two military helicopters were shot at by New People's Army guerrillas as the craft were flying over the northern town of Kayapa to deliver relief supplies.

The rebels declared a unilateral ceasefire in areas hit by the powerful July 16 earthquake to help in the relief efforts. The military, which did not respond to the rebel move, claims the guerrillas have violated their own ceasefire.

"We will go on with our mission despite gunfire from the NPA," Protacio said.

Protacio said the helicopter gunships will hover above relief helicopters as they unload their cargo.

Air force spokesman Col Avelino Abiol said he was aboard one of the two helicopters ferrying goods last Wednesday to Kayapa, a remote mountain town cut off from the rest of Luzon by massive landslides.

The rebels fired with M-16 and M-14 rifles, but missed the helicopters, he said.

The town located about 190 kms (120 miles) north of Manila, is described by the military as "rebel-infested."

Abiol said that when they landed in one of the clearings in the town, the people informed them that an undetermined number of guerrillas were at the market.

He said the people told the relief team that if the rebels attacked, the townfolk also would become their enemies.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos accused politicians today of stealing relief goods intended for victims of the devastating July 16 quake.

Canned milk, sardines and blankets sent by foreign donors were not reaching victims of the tremor and were being diverted to supporters of local politicians, Ramos said.

Two truckloads of relief goods were stolen before they could reach the northern city of San Jose in the devastated province of Nueva Ecija, rescue officials said.

Bad weather from the typhoon season to the Philippines has hampered relief operations as most supplies were being airlifted to quake-ravaged areas, social welfare officials said.

Mild aftershocks rocked Baguio city today, sending people rushing into the streets. Nearly 400 people died in the mountain resort city as the tremor toppled 28 buildings, including four luxury hotels, trapping hundreds of guests.

According to the latest figures, the earthquake left at least 1,653 people dead, more than 1,000 missing and presumed dead, more than 3,000 seriously injured and more than 110,000 homeless.

The Philippines, strapped for money after the devastating earthquake, will ask foreign creditors for a 2 1/2-year suspension of debt payments, a key legislator said yesterday.

"We have agreed to negotiate with our foreign creditors and we will push for this 2 1/2-year suspension," said Rep. Margarito Teves, chairman of the House of Representatives' Committee on Economic Affairs and a member of the Foreign Debt Council.

"It is now only a matter of formalising the strategies and the options we will take when we sit down with foreign creditors," he said.

Lawmakers started calling last week for a freeze on payments on the nation's \$26 billion foreign debt, but President Corason Aquino has been hesitant to take any unilateral steps that could hurt the country's credit.

The Philippines has received a mixed response from foreign creditors to a proposal to suspend debt payments so the country can recover from last week's devastating earthquake, officials said today.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation will forego its prestigious awards for Asia this year and instead donate 1.2 million pesos (\$55,000) to victims of last week's earthquake, it was announced yesterday.

Brunei offers to help US army

JAKARTA, Indonesia, July 27, (AP) The Sultanate of Brunei has joined Singapore in offering to allow the US armed forces to operate from its territory, a senior US official said today.

Singapore and Washington are negotiating an arrangement for increased use of the island's existing military facilities by US warships and planes.

The negotiations with Singapore are continuing at a time of uncertainty over the future of the US military bases on the Philippines, where there is considerable public opposition to renewing the lease for those bases.

US Secretary of State James A. Baker isn't expected to sign any agreement with Singapore during his three-day visit to the country that starts Sunday, said the senior official in the US state department.

"Brunei is also prepared for an enhanced security relationship," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Unlike Singapore, which inherited an array of airfields, dockyards and other military installations from the era of Britain's colonial rule, Brunei has little facilities available.

But with money no object, the oil-rich sultanate on the north coast of Borneo is now expanding its navy with new patrol boats and buying its first fixed-wing combat aircraft, 16 British-built Hawks. Fortune magazine and the Guinness Book of World Records say Brunei's absolute monarch, Sultan Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah is the world's richest person since the resource of his country are effectively in his name.

Regional security was a top item on the agenda as talks opened between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or Asean, and its "dialogue partners" — the United States, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the European Community.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said he believes the basis of security in the Asia-Pacific region "continues to be the deterrent force provided by the presence of the United States forces."

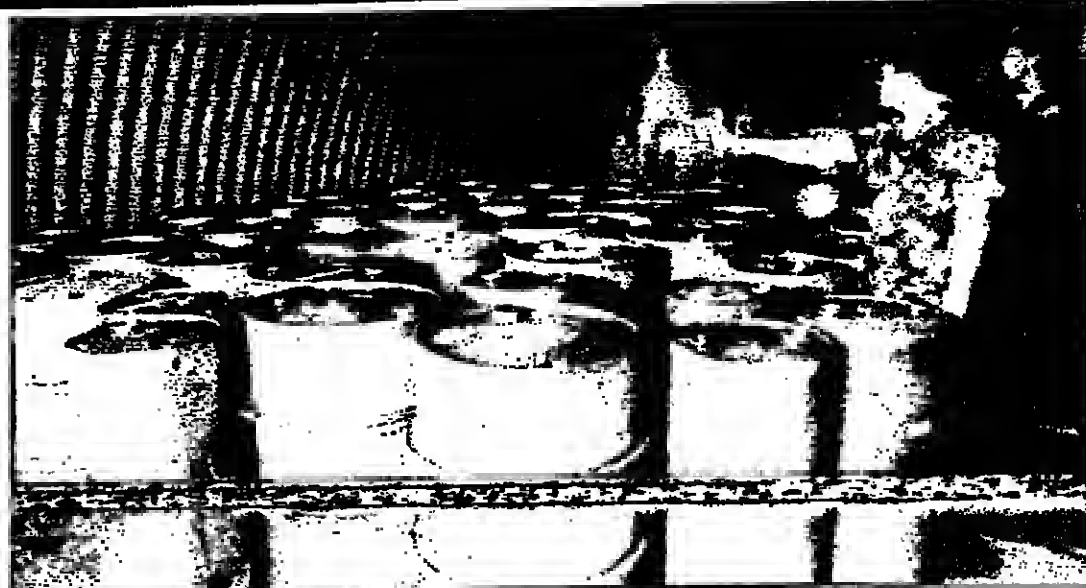
Baker said the United States remained "committed to a forward-based strategic presence to ensure stability and security across the Pacific and East Asia."

Strategy "Our forward-based strategy will continue to rely upon cooperative security arrangements," he said. "We are pleased to be expanding cooperative military ties with Singapore that will complement our basing arrangements with the Philippines."

Singapore's offer in mid-1989 to let the United States make greater use of its facilities annoyed some of its neighbours in Asean. Singapore stressed that there would be no formal US bases as in the Philippines, just increased use of existing facilities.

Until Friday, Singapore was the only country in Southeast Asia that openly backed a continued US military presence in the region. Officials in several other capitals express private support, but in public they like to swear that they are nonaligned.

Asean officially supports the creation of "Zofan," a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality. It publicly has called for the removal of all foreign military bases.



Toxic hazard

A navy commander points to 37 corroded drums of the anhydrous hydrazine rocket fuel in Sangley Naval Base near Manila July 27 which a Philippine senator said pose danger to his capital if it explodes. The navy has agreed to transfer the toxic gas to Iba Caballo Island, a small island at the mouth of Manila Bay, 40 kms west of the capital. (Reuters wirephoto)

Burma rulers set guidelines

Power handover

RANGOON, Burma, July 27, (AP) The military government today added more conditions to a transfer of power to the pro-democracy party that swept the May 27 election.

A spokesman, Kyaw Sann, said the government will convene a national conference to provide guidelines to the newly-elected Parliament for drafting the new constitution under which the transfer would take place.

He said the government then would hold a national vote on the draft constitution, and "only when the people approve the constitution by the referendum, (the military government) will adopt the same as the national constitution."

The authorities earlier had said the only barrier to transferring power was the drafting of the constitution by the Parliament.

Kyaw Sann warned the government would "take action against any attempt to adopt any interim constitution and government."

A Western diplomat reached in Rangoon from Thailand

called the new conditions the clearest statement yet of the army's intent to retain power despite the landslide election victory of the opposition National League for Democracy. The May parliamentary poll was Burma's first free vote in 30 years.

"In effect it is an attempt to negate or destroy or deprive the election of all meaning," said the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He said large numbers of troops were sent into Rangoon this morning in what was "obviously an attempt to prevent any reaction to this announcement."

In the past two weeks, youths and others have held small anti-government demonstrations in Rangoon and the central city of Mandalay, he said.

Some protesters were reported to have been arrested in a demonstration in Rangoon Monday by about 150 youths, he said. It was one of the largest such rallies in the city in months, he said.

Gunmen shoot 3 in Manila

MANILA, Philippines, July 27, (AP) Gunmen wearing military fatigues killed the Filipino president of a Singapore construction firm and two companions today during a daylight ambush in the heart of the city.

Separately, a human rights lawyers' group denounced a Supreme Court ruling allowing the military and police to arrest suspected members of rebel organisations without a warrant.

In the Manila shooting, police identified the victims as businessman Carlos Liao, president of Jurong Engineering (Philippines) Inc; his police escort, patrolman 1st class Sergi Abertia, and driver Felix Aguenza.

Police Cpl. Rey Cristobal said unknown assailants riding in a car and a jeep cut off Liao's white Mercedes Benz on a commercial street.

At least two of the gunmen jumped from the jeep and sprayed the victims with semi-automatic gun fire at close range, Cristobal said. The victims died at the scene, and their assailants fled in the car and jeep, Cristobal said.

The military Friday reported that a grenade exploded during a village dance Wednesday in the southern Philippines, killing four people and wounding 17 others.

Lt. Col. Ruben Cabaglit, Philippine constabulary provincial commander, said the incident took place in a village on the outskirts of San Fernando town in Bukidnon province, about 680 kilometres (550 miles) southeast of Manila.

Cabaglit said the villagers, all members of the Matigsalog tribe, were dancing to celebrate a tribal feast when the explosion took place.

The report did not say whether the grenade was thrown by an unidentified assailant or was accidentally dropped by one of those attending the dance, Cabaglit said.

He said an investigation is being conducted.

The July 9 Supreme Court ruling regarding arrests was made public Wednesday. In the decision, the High Court cited several judicial precedents from the era of the late president Ferdinand Marcos.

Moscow, Seoul talks in Aug

SEOUL, South Korea, July 27, (AP) South Korea and the Soviet Union will hold their first round of formal negotiations in Moscow next week with the goal of establishing diplomatic relations, the Foreign Ministry announced today.

South officials have said the two countries may be able to establish ambassadorial ties within this year. Seoul is eager for improved relations with the Soviet Union and other communist countries.

Ministry spokesman Chung Ui-Yong said a 20-member South Korean delegation, led by Kim Chong-In, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, will leave for Moscow Aug 1.

Chung said the Soviet delegation will be headed by first Soviet Deputy Premier Yuri D. Maslyukov.

The Korean negotiators will include presidential aides and senior officials from the foreign, economic planning, finance, trade and industry, energy and resources ministries, the spokesman said.

"Seoul and Moscow agreed to limited consular relations last December. Moscow has been a close ally of Pyongyang, Seoul's rival."

South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed in principle to work for the establishment of formal ties when they met in San Francisco June 4.

In a subsequent exchange of letters, the two presidents agreed to have their aides open normalisation negotiations in Moscow next month.



Unified opposition

South Korea's largest opposition party resolved Friday to disband to form a unified opposition force against the government of President Roh Tae-Woo. The Party for Peace and Democracy, led by Kim Dae-jung, adopted the resolution in Seoul at the party's national convention.

It followed an earlier agreement by opposition and dissident groups to merge to depose the Roh government they charged is trying to prolong power. Above: Opposition leader Kim Dae-jung speaks before a crowd of 3,000 members of his party during the national convention at the Koran Exhibition Centre. (Reuters wirephoto)

Manila bids death penalty for trafficking

KUALA LUMPUR, July 27, (Kuna) The Philippines police, impressed by Malaysia's tough laws against drug trafficking, will recommend the adoption of similar legislation.

The Philippines police deputy chief, Brig Gen. Manuel C. Roxas said today they would also like to introduce the death penalty for drug traffickers.

"We feel the adoption of such stringent laws necessary to curb the proliferation of drugs in our country," he told newsmen.

"We want to classify trafficking in drugs under heinous crimes punishable by death and will make the necessary recommendations to our lawmakers," he added.

Brig Gen. Roxas is here for the ongoing 10th Asean Police Chiefs Conference (Aseanapol).

The four-day meeting was opened by the Malaysian Deputy Home Minister Megat Juid Ayuh yesterday.

Brig Gen. Roxas said the maximum penalty now in the Philippines for drug traffickers was life imprisonment as the death penalty was abolished with the adoption of the country's new constitution in 1987.

He said illicit drug trafficking and smuggling were among the common areas that would be discussed by the Philippines police and their Malaysian counterparts.

"We share common territorial waters and are aware of smuggling being carried out in both our countries and want to effectively tackle the problem," he said.

He met yesterday with President F.W. de Klerk to discuss the allegations, and said today he would

De Klerk wants to exclude communist leader from talks with ANC

JOHANNESBURG, July 27, (AP) More arrests of African National Congress and communist activists are expected in connection with an alleged plot to seize power if talks fail, South Africa's police chief said today.

Gen Johan van der Merwe said the detention of a number of senior ANC and South African Communist Party militants in recent days had yielded considerable evidence of a conspiracy.

He told the state-run South African Broadcasting Corp. that more arrests "were likely," but gave no details.

"There is no plot as far as we're concerned," ANC leader Nelson Mandela said today during an appearance at a nursery school in the township of Soweto.

He met yesterday with President F.W. de Klerk to discuss the allegations, and said today he would

meet again with the president on Aug 1, after the ANC's national executive committee meets this weekend.

The committee includes Communist Party members.

ANC spokesman Fallo Jordan told a news conference today that during the meeting with Mandela, De Klerk "expressed the government's preference for the exclusion" of Communist Party leader Joe Slovo from scheduled Aug 6 negotiations between the ANC and the government.

Jordan said the national executive committee would discuss De Klerk's request during its weekend meeting. He said Mandela had no power to remove someone from the ANC's delegation, but "he can make suggestions."

The ANC has been allied with the South African Communist Party for more than four decades. Slovo

is a member of the ANC's executive committee and a former chief of the ANC military wing.

In other developments today police said four blacks had been killed in separate incidents of black factional violence during the past 24 hours. The report gave no details.

Police said they could not confirm local press reports that a woman was killed and 29 people hurt yesterday when armed men attacked a train near Johannesburg. Some reports said the attackers were from Inkatha, the conservative Zulu political movement.

Before the yesterday meeting between De Klerk and Mandela, the president's office issued a statement saying the ANC failed to "appreciate the seriousness of the facts which were brought to light" by police investigations of the alleged communist plot.

After the meeting, a statement by De Klerk, ready by his spokesman, said the two would meet again next week, at Mandela's request.

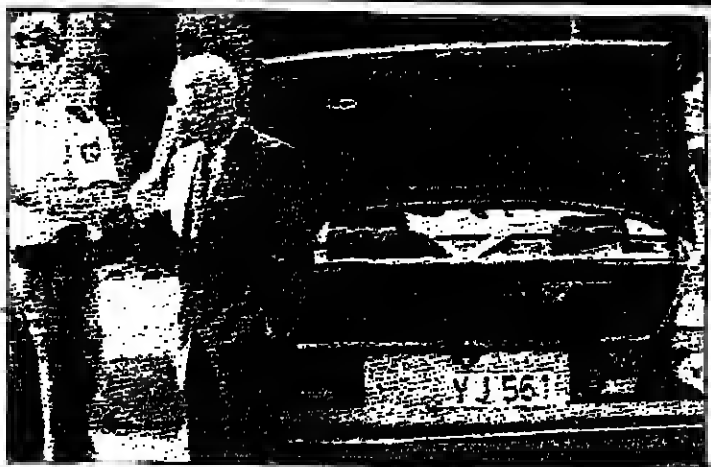
Police said about 40 militants had been arrested recently because of "information about an alleged conspiracy by the (Communist Party) and the ANC's military wing to overthrow the government by force if negotiations with the government failed."

On Wednesday, police arrested senior ANC and SACP leader Mac Maharaj in connection with the reported plot.

Business Day said police had seized records of a communist meeting at which Slovo allegedly said the party would not be bound by any ceasefire between the ANC and the government. The paper said Slovo made the remark two weeks after signing an agreement in May with the government and the ANC to work to end violence.



Mandela answers questions during a news conference July 25. On his right is his wife Winnie. (Reuters wirephoto)



62-year-old Hans Neusel, state secretary in the West German Interior Ministry stands close to his damaged car, shortly after a bomb attack by leftist rebel group Red Army Faction (RAF) July 27. Neusel who was slightly hurt, is in charge



of public security in West Germany. At right a police expert examines the damaged car. (Reuters wirephoto)

Expert survives RAF attack

BONN, July 27, (Agencies): The West German government's top terrorism expert survived an assassination attempt in the heart of the capital today when suspected Red Army Faction (RAF) guerrillas detonated a bomb as he drove by.

"They tried to kill me," said Hans Neusel, who escaped with minor cuts to his hand, hours after the morning rush-hour attack as he was driving to work.

"It's a risk in my job, but even if they had killed me someone else would take my place," he told reporters at the scene of the attack — a motorway exit ramp by the Rhine river.

Neusel, state secretary in the Interior Ministry and terrorism adviser to Interior Minister Wolfgang Schauble, said he had recently

given up the use of a personal bodyguard and was driving alone when the blast hit.

A note claiming responsibility for the attack was found near the scene. It bore the familiar star symbol of the RAF but was signed by the "Jose Manuel Sevillano commando." Sevillano was a suspected member of the Spanish leftist guerrilla group, Grapo, who died on hunger strike recently in a Spanish jail.

Police said they had not yet made any arrests in connection with the attack.

At a later news conference a relaxed-looking Neusel said there were links between different leftist groups such as France's Action Directe, the Italian Red Brigades and Grapo, who were working together to form a "West

European guerrilla front."

In the last two months several RAF members have been arrested in East Germany, where the former communist government was alleged to have given them sanctuary. They have been extradited to West Germany to stand trial.

Last week, Schauble warned in his annual report on terrorism that more RAF attacks could be expected following the crackdown.

The RAF, a leftist organisation formerly known as the Baader-Meinhof gang, carried out a series of killings and kidnappings of West German politicians and industrialists in the 1970s and early 1980s.

Khmer Rouge attacks train

BANGKOK, Thailand, July 27, (AP): Injured survivors said Khmer Rouge guerrillas killed several civilians, including women and children in attacking a passenger train in Cambodia, a journalist who interviewed them said today.

An American freelance reporter, Kurt Schork, said he interviewed two dozen survivors in Phnom Penh hospitals a few days after the attack.

The Khmer Rouge has given a different account of the July 15 attack in Kompong Chhnang province just northwest of the national capital Phnom Penh.

According to a text seen Friday, the Khmer Rouge radio said the guerrillas killed 15 Vietnamese soldiers and wounded 15 other soldiers.

The broadcast on Wednesday made no mention of civilian casualties.

The Khmer Rouge is the strongest guerrilla group fighting the government in Phnom Penh. Vietnam invaded the country in late 1978 and installed a new government, ending a nearly four-year Khmer Rouge rule in which hundreds of thousands of people died from execution and starvation.

The Khmer Rouge radio said the guerrillas ambushed and burned the train because the Vietnamese were using it to send rice to Vietnam.

The guerrillas have said that large number of Vietnamese troops remained after Vietnam announced its total military pullout in September.

According to survivors, Schork said, land mines first crippled the train before the Khmer Rouge struck with grenade launchers and machine-guns. Survivors told Schork that some soldiers aboard the train fled when the fighting began.

Many survivors said Khmer Rouge troops stole jewellery, gold, money and food from passengers, according to Schork. The Hong Kong-based reporter was interviewed in Bangkok.

Schork's photographs showed several civilians in the hospitals who had been wounded in the train attack.

He said Cambodian Defence Minister Gen. Tie Banh told reporters that 53 people were killed and 100 wounded.

According to Schork, Tie Banh said, "What is a pity, they ignored pleas for mercy from civilians."

Claims by the Khmer Rouge and the Phnom Penh government, both communist, are widely regarded with suspicion.

The Khmer Rouge and a guerrilla ally, the forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, have substantially increased attacks in Cambodia's interior in recent months.

Government shelling that started Tuesday in Stoung and Kompong Svay districts of Kompong Thom province forced villagers to flee to guerrilla bases, the Bangkok office of the Sihanouk group said. The province, which is north of Phnom Penh and borders Kompong Chhnang, has been hotly contested.

A few thousand other villagers were forced to leave their homes and follow government troops, said the statement, dated Thursday and received Friday. It said troops set villages on fire and stole cattle and rice.

America ready to initiate talks with Cambodia

US will not tolerate Khmer's 'dialogue of death'

JAKARTA, July 27, (UPI): Secretary of State James Baker said today the United States will not tolerate the "Khmer Rouge's dialogue of death" and refused to alter Washington's withdrawal of diplomatic recognition of the Cambodia resistance coalition.

In his first confrontation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations since announcing the policy shift last week, Baker also rejected Asean demands for US agreement to forced repatriation of unwanted Vietnamese boat people — a

policy he said would lead to "inhuman chaos and loss of life."

Baker instead said the United States is willing to join with other nations in a commitment to resettle or return all asylum seekers by the end of 1992 and is accepting a new category of returnees: "Those who do not object."

In a private session with Asean foreign ministers, Baker said the Bush administration had to withdraw support for the three-part rebel coalition holding a UN seat in order to win congressional approval for

aid to the two non-communist factions in the coalition.

The third, most powerful faction in the coalition trying to oust the Cambodian government is the communist, Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge. Vietnam invaded Cambodia in late 1978 and in 1979 ousted a Khmer Rouge regime believed responsible for the death of at least one million Cambodians in four years of power. Hanoi then installed the current Cambodian government.

The Cambodian resistance launched its

fight against Phnom Penh. After years of fighting, Vietnam said it withdrew its troops from Cambodia last September, but Cambodian rebel leaders say many Vietnamese troops remain.

Speaking to the Asean ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore and Brunei, Baker said Cambodian self-determination through elections must not be pursued without first "preventing the Khmer Rouge from shooting their way back into power."



A radio reporter interviews a pole-sitter (second left) on the third day of the 10th annual international pole-sitting championships in Noordwijkerhout, while other competitors find various ways to prevent muscle cramps. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kremlin warns outlaws

Byelorussia declares sovereignty

MOSCOW, July 27, (Agencies): Military force will be used to restore order in Armenia and other republics if armed groups disobey a new government order to turn in their weapons, Soviet Interior Minister Vadim A. Bakatin said today.

"If any guerrillas do not comply with the decree, we have been entrusted to use force," Bakatin told a news conference. "We hope that reason will prevail."

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev issued a decree on Wednesday giving illegally armed militants 15 days to turn their weapons or risk having them confiscated by local police, officials of the republics or interior ministry troops.

"If we do not take such measures, we will not be able to control such processes as those under way at present, for example, in Armenia," Bakatin said.

He estimated that 10,000-20,000 Armenians were involved in illegally armed groups, but said other put the figure at 40,000 and as high as 100,000.

Gorbachev's decree encompasses all groups, that threatened people's lives, seized arms, assaulted soldiers or police, or attacked military and civilian facilities.

Besides Armenia, Bakatin said illegally armed groups also operate in the republics of Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

Bakatin said Interior Ministry troops would be sent to republics requesting them, and army troops could go if a state of emergency were declared.

He said many local officials are swept up in the same nationalism as their neighbours and are powerless to stop ethnic fighting.

"If we call a spade a spade, the conflict means pure, sheep nationalism," he said.

The commander of Armenian main outlaw paramilitary group said on Friday he would defy Gorbachev's order to disband in 15 days, and warned of bloodshed if Soviet troops tried to enforce it.

"It is better to die than betray your people," said Razmik Ventsyan, commander of the Armenian National Army (ANA).

The parliament of Byelorussia declared sovereignty today, the latest in a succession of Soviet republics to assert its own identity and challenge Moscow's control.

The vote was unanimous although only 230 of the 350 deputies were in the chamber, the Byelorussian news agency Belta said from Minsk.

The Russian republic and the Ukraine made similar declarations to June and July, while Moldova and Uzbekistan have declared the supremacy of their own laws over Soviet laws.

America pledges to help Baltics

WASHINGTON, July 27, (AP): President George Bush promised support Wednesday for the people of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in their quest for freedom from the Soviet Union.

Bush held a ceremony in the Rose Garden marking "captive nations week," an event US presidents have observed annually since the Eisenhower era.

Bush displayed a piece of the Berlin Wall and a swatch of barbed wire that came from a now-dismantled barrier on the Austria-Hungary border.

"These two symbols of tyranny should never be forgotten," Bush told 100 guests, many of them refugees from communist lands. The audience also included a group of young interns from Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

"They are here learning how a free society works and will return to build a free Poland, a free Hungary, a free Czechoslovakia," the President said.

"But while we celebrate for those who are now free, we must also remember those who are not," said Bush.

He asked the audience to pray "that the next captive nations week will be the last."

The United States has never recognised the forcible incorporation of the three Baltic states into the Soviet Union in 1940 under pressure from Stalinist troops. Lithuania declared its independence from Moscow this spring, prompting Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to impose an economic embargo on the republic.

Bush has urged restraint on both sides, while repeatedly affirming US support for the Baltic states' right to self-determination. The Soviet leader recently eased the economic blockade after the Lithuanian parliament in Vilnius suspended its declaration of independence.

The Kremlin is expected to start negotiations soon with the Lithuanians. Gorbachev has said it might take several years for the situation to be worked out.

The Lithuanian parliament has also demanded independence, voting again last week to nullify the 50-year-old Soviet declaration of power.

Gorbachev is ready to start talks with the rebel Baltic republic of Estonia soon and has appointed a high-level Soviet negotiating team, the Estonian News Service said on Thursday.

Senior Gorbachev aide Grigory Revenko telephoned Estonian President Arnold Ruutel during the day and said the talks could start as early as next week, it said.

Revenko said the basis for negotiations would be the new "Union Treaty," governing relations between the 15 republics, which Gorbachev hopes to draft over the next two months.



Wolfgang (right) and party whip Schroeder (left) shown prior to the meeting, July 27 (Reuters wirephoto)

Bonn agrees to unified polls

SPD stays in coalition

EAST BERLIN, July 27, (Reuters): East Germany's Social Democrats (SPD) agreed to stay in Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere's ruling coalition on Friday after a deal with Bonn to hold a single pan-German election in December.

The decision, taken at an emergency meeting of the SPD parliamentary caucus, appeared to end East Germany's 10-day-old government crisis and clear the way for final negotiations on unifying the two German states.

"We consider it a success that the elections will take place in a unified area with the same conditions. It is a good basis for continuing the coalition," party chairman Wolfgang Thiere said.

The SPD won a major victory at talks in Bonn on Thursday between the two German parliaments, which threw out a proposal by De Maiziere's Christian Democrats (CDU) to hold separate elections in East and West before unity.

The SPD had threatened to follow the Liberal Party, which quit the four-month-old coalition on Tuesday over the issue. The Liberals indicated they

might be willing to return to the coalition but did not say when or on what terms.

Although the CDU accepted one joint election on Dec 2, the parties are still at odds over a threshold for winning parliamentary seats.

SPD leader reaffirmed on Friday they wanted to stick to West Germany's nation-wide five-per-cent hurdle, designed to allow strong government and prevent splinter groups and extremists from entering the Bundestag (parliament).

But De Maiziere and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl have both indicated they favour changing the law to admit parties which win five per cent in any one of the 16 federal states.

Such a change would open the door to the once-mighty East German Communists, the alliance of civil rights groups which led last year's East German democratic uprising and the conservative coalition of the German Social Union (DSU).

Both parliaments are due to be recalled from summer recess on Aug 9 to adopt an identical election law.



The newest Hungry Bunny restaurant in Jahra welcomes its new friends seen in the opening ceremony. Mr Fathalla Hazon, Development Manager and Mr Dajil Ali Mohammad, General Manager of Jahra Co-op. On their right is Mr Osama Arab, Marketing Manager for Hungry Bunny restaurants.

Jahra Welcomes Hungry Bunny

Hungry Bunny opened its latest outlet in Jahra, announcing simultaneously the on-coming operation of its first Hungry Bunny drive-through take-away restaurant.

Conveniently located opposite the Kuwait Bakeries, Hungry Bunny's newest restaurant boasts an attractive garden and a large games area. "We've been looking for the right location in Jahra and we're now delighted to offer Hungry Bunny's menu to Jahra's residents," said Mr Osama Arab, Marketing Manager of Hungry Bunny restaurants.

Mr Arab added "we are constantly striving to please our customers, thus maintaining our premier position as Kuwait's No. 1 Hamburger restaurant chain."

What makes a world leader great? Is it charisma or 'the vision thing'?

WASHINGTON, July 27, (Reuters): What makes a world leader great?

The experts have been arguing about it for years. Some say it's charisma or, in a phrase coined by US President George Bush, "the vision thing." Others insist it's a learnable skill that has nothing to do with personality.

Whatever it is, Napoleon had it and so did Churchill. And specialists at the annual meeting of the international Society of Political Psychology this month agreed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev probably has it too.

So might Britain's Margaret Thatcher and Cuban leader Fidel Castro. But West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Bush are unlikely candidates, according to

psychologist interviewed by Reuters.

"The issue of what makes leaders great has zero to do with personality," said Dr Elliot Jacques, a psychologist who has worked as a consultant for the US Chiefs of Staff, the Church of England and the Australian government. "There is no such thing as leadership per se," he said. "But the so-called great leaders through the millennia have a (vision) of at least 100 years."

Jacques sorts the outstanding leaders from the mediocre by assessing how far ahead their minds operate.

"The greater your competence, the higher your time horizon," said Jacques, noting ordinary mortals may plan only months ahead.

Gorbachev is a leader of Napoleonic stature who will gain still more weight as he ages, according to Jacques. The man who masterminded glasnost and perestroika has at least a 100-year horizon, he said.

"I can't believe Fidel Castro is a short horizon individual, and I would be surprised if Mao Tse Tung or Ho Chi Minh didn't have very substantial horizons," he added.

Thatcher's vision stands between 50 and 100 years, while Bush's is "certainly over 20 years," Jacques said. He refused to use his theory to compare former President Ronald Reagan with Bush but said, "Intellectuals tend to vastly underestimate Reagan."

Soviet political psychologists who attend the conference — unthinkable before Gorbachev — said realism, tenacity and independence were among the keys to greatness.

"I like Thatcher as a leader. She's professional. If she makes a decision, she goes all out to fulfil it," said Vladimir Vassiliev of the Central Council of the Psychological Society.

Vassiliev said Gorbachev was also a true professional, but added, "The public politician that is Gorbachev is far easier to grasp than the inner person. He's a very complicated man."

World News Roundup

Mrs Quayle had a hysterectomy:

The wife of US Vice-President Dan Quayle was released from Bethesda Naval Hospital Wednesday, four days after undergoing a hysterectomy, the vice-president's press office said.

It said the operation was performed on Saturday because pap smears indicated Marilyn Quayle had "severe dysplasia," a cell abnormality that experts said can be a precursor to cervical cancer.

"Because of early detection due to the excellent work of the cytologists at the National Naval Medical Centre, Mrs Quayle is expected to have a full and complete recovery," Quayle Press Secretary David Beckwith said in a written statement. (AP)

Congressman reprimanded: The House of Representatives on Thursday reprimanded a Republican Congressman Barney Frank for his official actions on behalf of a male prostitute. Lawmakers first rejected more severe punishments proposed by Republicans.

"I'm here to offer an apology and an explanation," the Massachusetts Democrat told a hushed audience shortly before the 408-18 vote for reprimand. He said he took some of the actions cited by the Ethics Committee "to conceal my homosexuality."

"I should have known better. I do now, but it's a little late," said Frank, who acknowledged his homosexuality publicly in 1987, a year after the events that led to the house probe. (AP)

Senate denounces: Sen. Dave Durenberger pledged Wednesday to become "first a better man and then a better senator" after his colleagues formally denounced him for receiving money improperly.

The senate ordered him to make restitution of up to \$123,000 for money he received improperly.

The judgement marked the 24th time in 201 years that the Senate disciplined one of its own. The vote was 96-0, and after rendering their verdict many Senators lined up to shake Durenberger's hand, some embracing him. (AP)

Judge dismisses juror: A judge in a drug money-laundering trial dismissed a juror on Thursday after learning that the man had tried to phone Colombian drug dealers listed in an address book admitted as evidence.

US District Judge William Hodges denied a defence motion for a mistrial and ordered jury deliberations to continue with 11 jurors. (Reuters)

Generous Castro: Cuban President Fidel Castro's offer to allow Cubans to leave their country may result in a migration to the United States that could dwarf the 1980 Mariel boatlift, Cuban-Americans and experts said.

Castro, in a speech at a mass rally in Havana on Thursday, challenged the United States and Western Europe to issue entry visas to Cubans, saying his government would allow any of its citizens to freely leave the island.

A decade ago some 120,000 Cubans rushed to Florida from the port of Mariel when Castro briefly relaxed his emigration controls. (Reuters)

Aids screening: Many hospitals should routinely offer Aids tests to all patients, especially in poor city neighbourhoods, because so many people are unknowingly infected with the Aids virus, a government study recommends.

The chief author of the report said Aids screening should become as common a part of hospital care as testing for heart disease and glaucoma.

"There is a large number of infected persons who are unaware of their status," said Dr Michael E. St Louis. "Hospitals may be an efficient place where they could potentially get plugged into an appropriate programme of treatment or counselling." (AP)

Raid turns up illegal turtles: A search for drugs on a Korean tanker revealed stuffed sea turtles belonging to an endangered species and about five tons of coral from protected Philippine reefs.

"This is unique. We've never seen this amount of coral before," said Rick Ellison, chief of US customs inspectors for the San Francisco Waterfront.

Importation of the items violates federal and international laws prohibiting transporting and possessing endangered or protected wildlife. (AP)

Highest CO₂ emissions: Several US states are among the world's biggest sources of carbon-dioxide emissions, an environmental group said Thursday.

The 10 states with the highest emission account for half the total carbon dioxide put into the air in the United States, the natural Resources Defence Council said. (AP)

Summit on kids: President George Bush will attend a 35-country United Nations "World summit for children" in New York on



Hazelwood hearing

Former Exxon Valdez skipper Joseph Hazelwood (right) could be back in command of a ship in nine months under a penalty imposed by the coast guard for the nation's worst oil spill.

Hazelwood, in an interview, said he was satisfied with the coast guard's decision to dismiss misconduct and negligence charges against him and decided to let him resume his career.

At a coast guard hearing Wednesday, administrative law Judge Harry Gardner suspended Hazelwood's captain's license for nine months and put him on probation for three more months.

Disabled Americans

Bush signs anti-bias bill

WASHINGTON, July 27, (AP): As several thousand advocates for the disabled looked on, President George Bush yesterday signed an act banning discrimination against the nation's 43 million handicapped people.

"Every man, woman and child with a disability can now pass through a once-closed door to a bright new era of equality, independence and freedom," Bush said as he signed the measure in a White House ceremony.

The president likened the Americans with disabilities act of 1990 to the dismantling of the Berlin Wall as a symbol of freedom for a once-oppressed people. It "takes a sledgehammer to another wall," he said.

The bill prohibits discrimination against the disabled in employment, public accommodations, transportation and telecommunications, and defines as disabled anyone who has a mental or physical impairment limiting "some major life function."

The disabilities bill, like other major civil rights legislation, includes a variety of sanctions for violators, including those who discriminate in hiring. It allows victims of employment discrimination to seek back pay, reinstatement and attorneys fees. However, the law exempts business with fewer than 5 employees from the hiring provisions.

The measure includes new protection for Aids-infected workers.



Deputy assassinated

Unidentified assailants shot dead a Guatemalan congressional deputy and his travel companion on a country road, less than four months before general elections in this Central American country, police said on Wednesday.

Otto Rolando Ruano, a deputy for the National Centre Union Party, was found dead with a companion early on Wednesday in a car parked on a highway roadside south of the capital, a police spokesman said. Both victims were ridden with bullets.

Police spokesman Urbano Puentes was unable to provide further details on how the men were killed. He said there were no immediate suspects.

Edna Orellana del Ruan, wife of slain congressional representative Otto Rolando Ruano, cries over the flag draped casket of her husband July 26 during the funeral at Jalapa.

Sept 30, the White House announced Wednesday.

The following day, he will deliver his annual address to the UN General Assembly, White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said.

Prime Ministers Brian Mulroney of Canada and Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan will chair the summit meetings. (AP)

Historians meet: The Soviet Union and the United States should open their records to historians world-wide, said historians who met for five days to discuss the cold war.

Allen Weinstein, head of the US delegation and a University of Boston history professor, reported at a press conference Wednesday that the Supreme Soviet is working on a law reestablishing the US Freedom of Information Act. The act which requires some government documents to be made publicly available upon request. (AP)

Patriarch in Boston: Patriarch Dimitrios, spiritual leader of the world's Eastern Orthodox Christians, joined Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis on Thursday in celebrating their common Greek heritage and religion.

"We've arrived finally... in Massachusetts, whereby the grace of God a beloved countryman has served as governor," said the 75-year-old patriarch upon arriving at the state Capitol.

Dimitrios, capping a 27-day visit to the United States, the first by an Eastern Orthodox patriarch, was greeted with roaring applause from church members, including Dukakis and other state officials. Many, including Dukakis, kissed his ring or touched the sleeve of his black robe. (AP)



Queen wins injunction: Queen Elizabeth won a high court injunction on Friday banning publication of a book which gives intimate details of life in the royal household.

The attorney-general, acting for the queen, won the injunction ordering the author not to publish in Britain.

Excerpts of the book have been published in the French magazine Paris Match but were torn out of its British edition after the queen's lawyers sought an injunction banning publication in Britain, a spokesman for the magazine said. (Reuters)

Rabbis urge Thatcher: Jewish religious groups in the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's constituency, north London, are calling on her to intervene with US President George Bush over the case of Jonathan Pollard who was caught spying for

Israel, according to a report on Friday.

The Jewish Chronicle newspaper reported that Rabbis have asked Thatcher to pass on "the deep concern felt by the Jewish people everywhere" about the sentence against the US navy intelligence analyst, who is imprisoned for life in a top security jail in the US. (Kuna)

Commons in recess: The British House of Commons began its long summer recess Thursday afternoon, ending a year which has seen a dramatic slide in the fortunes of the ruling Conservative Party.

Observers noted that UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has had to contend with the loss of several senior cabinet ministers, as well as facing strong criticism of her style of leadership.

Meanwhile, the opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock has looked for the first time like a truly electable leader, with his party consistently ahead in the opinion polls. (Kuna)

Explorer awarded damages: Explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes was awarded 100,000 pounds (\$181,000) in libel damages Wednesday for an article in the Canadian magazine, Maclean's which said his exploits had achieved nothing of historical or scientific value.

A high court jury in London took only 40 minutes to decide that Fiennes was justified in complaining that an article in the magazine was "nasty, mean-minded and spiteful." He had asked the jury to "nail the lie" that his expeditionary efforts were valueless. (AP)

Fire rages on: Five forest fires raged across eastern Spain and other regions Thursday, destroying thousands of hectares of woodlands but causing no injuries, agriculture officials said.

In the eastern province of Alicante, a fire blamed on arsonists blazed a 30-kilometres (18.6-mile) path on its widest front, according to Agriculture Ministry officials.

The officials said the blaze was unlikely to be brought under control for several days. (AP)

Greek forest fire: A forest fire Friday raged out of control on Samos forcing authorities to cut power and most of the island's telecommunications as a precautionary measure.

It was the second major wildfire on the resort island in the eastern Aegean off the coast of Turkey within ten days.

Authorities said they were unable to immediately estimate how many acres (hectares) of forest were destroyed by the fire, fanned by strong, dry northerly winds. (AP)

Anti-Mafia report: More than 200 people linked to the southern Italian Mafia were elected to serve on regional and city councils last May, according to an official report.

But the parliamentary and-Mafia commission report said local councillors in Calabria and the Naples area persistently denied the role of organised crime in violence and corruption, despite cases that had been proven in court. (Reuters)

Kouchner criticises: French Aid Minister Bernard Kouchner said on Wednesday revelations by a former spy chief that Paris infiltrated intelligence agents into Poland under humanitarian cover in 1982 would endanger relief work.

"What he said was scandalous. The secret services do this work is something I do not know about."

"But that he should talk about it endangers relief teams in the field," Kouchner told Reuters. (Reuters)

French govt warns: The French government warned Wednesday of severe crop damage unless fresh rain breaks a widespread drought that has forced scores of towns to restrict water consumption and a nuclear power plant to shut down.

River levels in some areas has dropped as much as 50 per cent below normal, and many communities have been forced to ban lawn watering, car washing and other uses of water. (AP)

Spain requests extradition: The Spanish government has requested from Switzerland the extradition of the charge d'affaires of the state of Sao Tome and Principe to the United Nations in Geneva, Francisco Paesa Sanchez, accused of collaborating with a terrorist group responsible for the assassination of numerous Basque militants.

The Swiss News Agency (ATS) reported Thursday, however, that Swiss authorities had not yet received an official request from the Spanish government. (Kuna)

Norway cancels: Norway on Thursday cancelled an expulsion order against a Greenpeace boat after deciding local police had overreacted to a protest at a paper mill.

The Beluga research vessel, ordered to leave Norwegian waters on Wednesday following the protest at the Sande Paper Mill in southern Norway, cruised the Oslo fjord on Thursday with a group of politicians and reporters. (Reuters)

UK army short of bullets: The British army has run short of bullets for submachine-guns and scaled down target practice until new stocks arrive, according to the Defence Ministry.

But a spokesman insisted on Friday that the "operational effectiveness of the army is not affected" by the shortage, caused when a batch of ammunition was withdrawn after reaching the end of its life. (Reuters)

Petition Pope John: An animal rights activist posted a petition Wednesday in St Peter's Square calling on Pope John Paul II to declare that animals have immortal souls.

Security guards quickly took down the statement and dispersed protesters.

John Stockwell, a 55-year-old geologist and school teacher from California, compared his initiative to that of Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer who posted his historic 95 theses on the door of a castle church in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517. (AP)

Santa Claus convention: Santa Claus, 62 of them, came to town on a hot sunny summer afternoon in Copenhagen.

They had lunch and swapped Christmas stories, and kept their beards and red suits on in 23-degree (73 degrees Fahrenheit) warmth on the day Wednesday.

Puzzled? This is Denmark, a land of fairy tales where the magical side of life is never far from mind. Where else would you hold the 27th Santa Claus World Congress, with delegates from the Soviet Union and half a dozen European countries? (AP)

Fourastie, economist dies: Jean Fourastie, an economist who helped design the reconstruction of postwar France, has died in South-central France at age 83, his colleagues announced Friday.

A statement from the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, which Fourastie once headed, gave no details about the death, which occurred Wednesday in the Lot region. (AP)



Jagger performs

Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones performs during their concert in Rome on July 25. (Reuters wirephoto)

7-1/2 hours after brain dead

Man startles medical team

DES MOINES, Iowa, July 27, (AP): A shooting victim declared dead, for hours suddenly showed signs of life as medical technicians were preparing his body to remove organs for transplants.

He died Wednesday, nearly 15 hours later.

"This is the first time I've seen one respond like this, and I've been at this for 30 some years," said Black Hawk county medical examiner Albert Dolan.

He said a medical team that hoped to take organs for transplant from the body of James Albert Geiger of Waterloo stood aside Tuesday

as doctors, who initially believed that Geiger had died eight hours before, worked to save his life. Geiger then died early Wednesday morning.

Geiger was declared brain dead early Tuesday.

Doctors got permission from Geiger's family to take the organs for transplants. But about 7-1/2 hours later Geiger was pronounced dead. A cardiologist who was there to maintain Geiger's blood pressure was startled by an arm movement that would not happen if the patient were dead.



Pop star Madonna holds a bottle of mineral water and grins as she arrives at Madrid's Barajas airport on July 25, surrounded by bodyguards, fans and reporters. (Reuters wirephoto)

Africa

Unita kill 37 troops: The Angolan rebels said Thursday they killed 37 government soldiers in two raids this week.

Rebel statement distributed in the Portuguese capital said the heaviest casualties came Monday when a guerrilla unit launched a night attack against a government supply station in the general town of Luena.

According to the dispatch, 25 government soldiers died in the assault and a warehouse loaded with some 1,000 tonnes of unspecified war material was destroyed. Three rebels were wounded in the raid, said the statement from the US-backed rebel group known as Unita. (AP)

Ugandan rights abuses: Several thousand Ugandans have died in squalid, disease ridden camps where government soldiers routinely raped inmates, a Ugandan human rights group charged.

The Ugandan Human Rights Activists

(UHRA) said in a quarterly report that from January to March this year an average of five people died daily in each of 11 camps in northeastern Kumi district, adding up to several thousand deaths. (Reuters)

Mugabe pardons: Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe on Thursday pardoned hundreds of dissidents who had remained in jail even after their leaders were absorbed into Mugabe's own ZANU-PF party in 1988.

The amnesty was to mark 10 years of independence, which Zimbabwe celebrated on April 18 this year, according to a presidential statement carried by the state news agency Ziara.

It was announced the day after Zimbabwe's 25-year-old state of emergency, introduced by rebel white minority leader Ian Smith in 1965, was allowed to lapse. (Reuters)

Released and re-arrested: A lawyer detained without charge for 20 days following a crackdown on multiparty advocates was

re-arrested immediately after his release, a police official said Thursday in Nairobi.

The government on Wednesday announced it had released Gitabu Imanwara as well as two other lawyers, Mohamed Ibrahim and John Khaminwa.

However, Imanwara, who edits a monthly magazine often critical of the government, was immediately re-arrested "in connection with other criminal allegations against him," said Noah Arap Too, head of the criminal investigation department. (AP)

Bongo to marry: Gabon's President Omar Bongo will marry the daughter of President Denis Sassou Nguesso of neighbouring Congo in a formal ceremony in Libreville on Saturday, official sources said.

The marriage between Bongo, 55, and Edith Sassou Nguesso, 28, was arranged last year. The two underwent a traditional African wedding ceremony at Sassou Nguesso's home village in January. Bongo's second marriage (Reuters)

Latin America

Venezuelan cabinet shuffle: The Venezuelan cabinet resigned on Thursday, but a government source said the ministers in charge of President Carlos Andres Perez' economic reform package would keep their jobs.

Perez has imposed a series of sweeping reforms to open up Venezuela's economy, including freezing prices and interest rates, lowering import tariffs, removing many subsidies and moving towards privatisation of state businesses.

While the changes have been applauded by the international financial community and many businessmen, the poor have been hard hit, with malnutrition and hunger on the rise. Petrol and transport price hikes last year sparked a wave of rioting that left at least 300 dead. (Reuters)

Travel to Medellin: Following a new wave of murders in Medellin, President Virgilio Barco and three of his cabinet ministers are travelling to the city to discuss the violence with officials there, a presidential spokesman said Thursday.

Five policemen and a government employee were assassinated in and around Medellin on Wednesday, a police spokesman told the Associated Press.

One of the officers was killed in an ambush by leftist guerrillas in northern Antioquia, home state of Medellin, the spokesman said. (AP)

Colombia is winning: Colombia's top police general said Wednesday that his country is winning its war on drugs, but it needs more drug-fighting equipment from the industrialised world.

"We could use 20 more helicopters," General Miguel Gomez, chief of the National Police, told foreign reporters.

Gomez added that Colombia appreciated the helicopters and other military aid the United States has already sent to help crush the country's violent drug traffickers. (AP)

Bogota cocaine bust: In one of the biggest drug busts so far this year, security troops seized some 5,000 pounds (2,200 kilograms) of cocaine in northeastern Colombia, an army official said Thursday.

During a routine search operation, soldiers from the army's 14th brigade discovered an underground passageway containing drugs, automatic assault rifles, ammunition, uniforms, cocaine-processing materials and sophisticated radio equipment, the official said.

The officer asked not to be identified to accord with military policy. (AP)

Brando passport missing: Actor Marlon Brando easily raised \$10 million in bail money on Wednesday for the release of his son, Christian, who faces a murder charge — but Christian Brando stayed in jail.

The reason: no one in the family could find the son's passport.

"We do not have the passport despite an intensive search, and without it Christian Brando cannot be released," Pamela Wells, a legal assistant to Brando's lawyer, Robert Shapiro, said. (Reuters)

US aid not enough: Former Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega said on Thursday the United States was not giving Nicaragua the economic assistance it needed while Cuba was willing to keep helping its former left-wing ally.

Ortega told a news conference in Havana that Cuba was the first country to respond to a Nicaraguan appeal for emergency aid to help thousands of flood victims in northeast Nicaragua. (Reuters)

New foreign minister: Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez on Thursday appointed a new foreign minister to replace the man fired for sparking a political row with opposition parties.

Rodriguez named Alexis Frutos Vaseken, who held the justice and labour portfolio, as new foreign minister. Frutos Vaseken was replaced by Hugo Estigarribia, formerly deputy interior minister, a presidential spokesman said. (Reuters)

Kidnapper arrested: One of the abductors of Scott Heimdahl, the American gold miner who was kidnapped in Ecuador's jungle on April 28 and freed after 61 days in captivity, has been arrested, police said Wednesday.

They identified him as a member of a Colombian guerrilla group who lived in neighbouring Ecuador and said he was tied in with a Colombian drug trafficker who was freed from prison by a guerrilla attack. (AP)

Salvador peace talks: Salvadoran government and guerrilla negotiators have ended a week of talks still at odds over the armed forces but encouraged by a human rights accord.

The two sides agreed Thursday on a United Nations role to seek greater respect for basic rights during a 20-hour session that extended the Costa Rican meeting by a day. It was the first accord produced in three pounds of talks since May. (AP)

Mass grave found: Chile's government sent forensic experts Wednesday to a mass grave uncovered in the Atacama desert, believed to contain the remains of at least 26 leftists executed under the past military rule.

Belisario Velasco, undersecretary of the Interior Ministry, said the bodies were apparently destroyed with dynamite, making their identification extremely difficult. (AP)

Bomb blasts in Santiago: At least five bombs exploded in the capital Santiago late Thursday, wounding two people slightly and damaging Chilean and foreign targets, police and news reports said.

Two branches of the US bank Citibank and the headquarters of a Chilean and Arab-owned fruit export company, United Trade Co., had their windows shattered by the bombs.

The other targets were a local Chilean communications company and a private home apparently owned by a military officer, police said. (AP)

روزنامه العرب

Israel can retaliate with chemical weapons: minister

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 27. (AP) In an escalation of Middle East war rhetoric Science Minister Yuval Neeman said today that Israel could respond with its own chemical weapons if it came under attack with such arms from Iraq.

It was the most far-reaching statement by an Israeli leader on the subject. Israel is widely believed to have chemical weapons, but officials have never admitted it. Defence Ministry spokesman Danny Naveh refused comment on Neeman's remarks.

Neeman's warning was the latest in a "war of words" started by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein when he said

in April he would torch half of Israel with binary chemical weapons if attacked with nuclear arms by the Jewish state.

In the past week, Israeli officials have sharpened their rhetoric in response to Saddam, with Defence Minister Moshe Arens saying Iraq's threats have increased the likelihood of war.

Some Israeli newspaper editorials and analysts said Arens and others apparently were trying to rally US support at a time when Congress is debating wide-ranging cuts in military spending that could affect Israel.

Neeman, a member of the ultra-rightist Tzohar Party, said in an interview with

Israel radio today that Israel was ready to counter Iraqi threats.

"In my opinion, we have an excellent response, and that is to threaten (Saddam) Hussein with the same merchandise," said Neeman, who also is head of Israel's space programme.

Neeman said any advanced nation has the capability to manufacture chemical weapons.

"And if there is an enemy like this, it is possible to prepare a suitable response," Neeman said. "I have no doubt that also today we can respond to a threat like this."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir

apparently was displeased by Neeman's remarks. A source in Shamir's office said the prime minister would meet with Neeman to discuss the radio interview.

The 65-year-old Neeman has served in the past both as deputy director of army intelligence and scientific director of Israel's atomic energy programme.

Reached by telephone after the radio broadcast, Neeman did not deny he meant Israel had chemical weapons. When asked directly if the country possessed such arms, he replied: "That's a question for the minister of defence."

Another threat against Iraq came from Eliyahu Ben Elissar, head of

parliament's Defence and Foreign Affairs Committee, who said in a speech last night that Israel would retaliate harshly if attacked by Iraq.

Both Neeman and Ben Elissar came under sharp criticism from Elazar Granot, head of the socialist Mapam Party who said their words were as irresponsible as those of radical Arab leaders.

Despite the talks of war, the top official of the Pentagon, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell, said after touring the region this month that he believed there was little danger the rhetoric would lead to a conflict.

Algerian cabinet reshuffle

Defence created

ALGIERS, July 27. (Reuters) President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria appointed a minister of defence for the first time since independence in 1962 and made changes in seven other ministries on Wednesday, the official news agency APS said.

The minister of defence is Major-General Khaled Nezzar, who was named chief of staff of the armed forces two months after the riots which swept Algeria in October 1988.

Successive Algerian heads of state have kept the defence portfolio to themselves and there was no immediate explanation for Chadli's decision to break with tradition.

APS noted that under the constitution the head of state was the commander-in-chief of the armed forces and the man responsible for overall military strategy.

The senior military official below Chadli was previously General Mustafa Chelloufi, who bore the title secretary-general at the Ministry of Defence and who has been called to other functions, APS said.

Nezzar, promoted to his present rank only three weeks ago, played a key role in handling the October 1988 riots, in which more than 160 people were killed by the army and police.

The riots set in motion a rapid process of political and economic reform, leading to a Muslim fundamentalist victory in local elections last month.

General Chelloufi had been criticised by the Islamist movement for saying the army would not allow the fundamentalists to use democracy to come to power and impose a dictatorship.

President Chadli, acting on the advice of Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche, has left unchanged the key posts in the

interior, mines, economy and foreign ministries.

But five ministers — for education, universities, public works, transport and health — have been replaced and four new ones have come into the cabinet.

Mines Minister Sadek Bous-sena, who is in Geneva as chairman of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), has been given industry as an extra portfolio.

Outgoing industry minister Hassen Kahlouche has been transferred to the Transport Ministry and posts and telecommunications minister Hamid Sidi-Said to the Health Ministry, APS said.

Outgoing transport minister El Hedi Khediri, who has no new post, was formerly close to President Chadli and interior minister at the time of the riots.

The old health and universities ministers — Akli Kheddis and Abdessalam Ali Rachedi — had failed to prevent a rash of strikes in their sectors. A Rachedi plan to make universities autonomous was widely contested.

None of the new ministers is a prominent member of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), in line with a partial disengagement between party and government.

Hamrouche and four of his ministers left the FLN political bureau earlier this month so that the government could concentrate on its own work while the party sought to rebuild in time for parliamentary elections expected next year.

Political sources said Nezzar's appointment as defence minister strengthened Hamrouche's position by bringing defence into his sphere of influence.

The new chief of staff is General Abdelmalek Guenaizia, who was deputy chief of staff for the air force.

Policemen shot at in Cairo diplomat area

CAIRO, July 27. (AP) Unknown attackers in a speeding car today opened fire at policemen on guard duty in a Cairo suburb where many foreign diplomats live, an official announced today.

Two policemen were wounded and taken to hospital, according to a statement from the Interior Ministry, which oversees internal security.

The statement said gunmen, in a small Fiat-127 car, fled after the shooting in Maadi, about 15 km (10 miles) south of Cairo.

It said the attack occurred on Street No. 77, but it did not specify whether any foreign diplomats live in the vicinity.

Maadi, where the Israeli ambassador and many of his staff live, witnessed two shooting attacks on Israeli diplomats in 1984 and 1985. In the first, a low-ranking diplomat was slightly wounded in the hand. In the second, an administrative attaché was killed.

An Israeli embassy official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said after the release of today's statement, that no Israeli diplomats live on Street No. 77 in Maadi.

The government has charged a clandestine group called Egypt's Revolution with mounting the two Maadi attacks on Israeli diplomats and two others in 1986 and 1987. Twenty people, including Khaled Abdel-Nasser, the elder son of the late president Gamal Abdel-Nasser, are presently on trial in connection with those attacks.

Egypt's Revolution was a lay organisation opposed to Cairo's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

Jewish teachers' anger at Palestinian student

T-shirt row in Canada

TORONTO, July 27. (Kuna) Two Jewish teachers sent home a Palestinian student because he dared to wear a pro-Palestine T-shirt at her public school.

But the reaction of the Canadian Arab Federation has been so strong that the incident has now become a major human rights issue.

Yesmeen Musa, a 10-year-old Palestinian in grade four at Knobhill Junior Public School in Scarborough, a suburb of Toronto.

Last month, Yesmeen went to school wearing a T-shirt which showed the map of Palestine with the slogan "We fight for our rights."

But two teachers, both of them Jewish told her that she was hurting their feelings and sent her to the principal's office who called her mother and asked her to come and get Yesmeen and change her T-shirt.

The Canadian Arab Federation was quick to react, charging that Yesmeen's human rights were being violated. The federation met with the school board and explained that in the federation's opinion, forbidding Yesmeen to wear the T-shirt is a clear violation of the Canadian charter of rights, specifically where it refers to freedom of speech.

But the Scarborough public school board defended the teacher's decision, explaining that "Yesmeen was wearing a T-shirt which expressed a political statement that, through symbolism and words, advocated fighting and violence. Such an expression is contrary to policy statements contained in values, education, and multicultural/ethnic

race relations documents."

What the school board meant was that Yesmeen's action violated the school board's interpretation of its policy guidelines.

But James Kafieh, president of the Canadian Arab Federation counters that no school guideline can possibly supersede Canadian law as embodied in the Canadian charter of rights. That interpretation was reinforced by Alan Borovoy, president of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association who met with public school officials and then expressed his disapproval of their actions.

On Monday Borovoy said: "The garment in question is devoid of anything remotely resembling racial or ethnic generalities," meaning that the T-shirt is not racially offensive even though it makes a strong political statement.

That is an important point in the Canadian context where anything critical of Israel or supportive of the Palestinians is often dismissed as being anti-Semitic and therefore racist.

The Canadian Arab Federation plans to appeal to the Ontario human rights commission and may even go to court and sue the school board. The federation feels that this is not a battle over a T-shirt, but a very real part of its struggle to make the Palestinian struggle for national rights and dignity acceptable in this country. Says Kafieh, "Teachers do not have the right to take away rights and freedoms given to Yesmeen Musa in a democratic society."

Fellow killings raise concern

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 27. (AP) The slayings of 15 Palestinians this month for suspected collaboration with Israel are raising fears among Palestinian leaders that the uprising is turning on itself in frustration.

A statement from a Palestine Liberation Organisation official was published today criticising the killings and saying Arabs should be battling Israelis, not each other.

The mounting internecine toll is particularly conspicuous because it contrasts with a marked drop in fatal clashes with Israeli troops, who have adopted a more restrained strategy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Just one Palestinian has died in clashes with soldiers in July.

Analysts blame the increased killings of Palestinians by their own people on a noticeable slowdown in the 31-month uprising against Israeli occupation and its failure to make political gains.

Israeli politicians have used the killings as ammunition in their campaign against the PLO, while PLO leaders have expressed fears the killings are getting out of hand.

In a statement today in Jerusalem's An Nadwa weekly, Intisar Al Wazir, a member of the mainstream PLO/Fatah faction's central committee, said Palestinians are "undermining their own cause."

"Masked activists who appear during the night and attack citizens and property must be condemned," said Mrs Al Wazir, widow of the PLO military leader Khalil Al Wazir.

"The uprising security committees must confront those who hurt the revolution of stones and endanger its continuation," she said from Amman, Jordan.

According to figures kept by the Associated Press, 724 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians, and 45 Israelis have been slain by Palestinians since the uprising began in December 1987.

In that time, 243 Palestinians have been killed by fellow Arabs. In most cases, the victims have been taken from their homes or shops by masked Palestinians.

They later have been found bled, beaten or stabbed to death, and wall slogans or leaflets have proclaimed them collaborators with Israel.

Yossi Olmert, director of the government press office, denied that all of those killed were collaborating. He suggested that Palestinians involved in crime or family feuds "try to legitimize killings by saying they (the victims) are collaborators."

Olmert also blamed the PLO for the deaths, charging that they were aimed at blocking Israeli efforts to cut the PLO out of the peace process.

"The PLO and its accomplices want to show that no one should be under the impression he can talk with Israel without being punished," Olmert said.

The PLO has several times tried to stop the killings.

Poor GDR can't pay reparation to Israelis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 27. (AP) The outgoing West German ambassador to Israel said in remarks published yesterday that East Germany was too poor to pay reparations to Israel and the Jewish people.

"East Germany is on the brink of bankruptcy and therefore cannot accept any financial obligations," Ambassador Wilhelm Haas said on a parting visit to the northern city of Haifa.

"It's better to wait with the question of reparations for Nazi victims until German unification, and then we will decide together with West Germany how to deal with this question," Haas was quoted as saying by the Maariv daily.

The remarks appeared to contradict East Germany's statements that it was ready in principle to pay reparations and is negotiating with Israel over such payments.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Moti Amihai said that talks between East Germany and Israel on establishing diplomatic relations were going well.

"We hope that everything will be concluded soon and that there will be diplomatic relations," Amihai told the Associated Press.

The road to diplomatic ties was paved by a declaration in April by East Germany's Parliament, the first freely elected one after 40 years of communist rule. It passed a resolution in its first session accepting moral responsibility for the Nazi holocaust and expressing willingness to pay reparations.

Housing in East Jerusalem

Israeli plans will make Jews majority

JERUSALEM, July 27. (Reuters) Israel is planning major housing construction for Jews in Arab East Jerusalem that would make Palestinians a minority in the area they regard as their future capital.

City officials say nearly 20,000 units that would house 70,000 Jews are to be built in East Jerusalem.

The influx would end the Palestinian majority in the city, now standing at 150,000 Arabs to 120,000 Jews.

Officials of the Israeli-run municipality said on Thursday at least 12,000 of 15,000 houses planned for Jews in north Jerusalem would be built on land captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

"Fifteen thousand housing units in the Jewish sector are on the drawing boards. The majority are in neighbourhoods across what used to be the green line (border)," said Bonnie Boxer, spokeswoman for the municipality.

She said city engineers are preparing plans for a further 7,500 units to be built in two stages in the south of the city, also on land captured and annexed to Israel.

Israel expanded the boundaries of the Arab city after its capture, incorporating empty land later used or allocated for Jewish housing.

"In five years time, all vacant land in north-east Jerusalem will be filled by Jews and then the 150,000 Arabs will be outnumbered by 180,000 to 190,000 Jews," said a Jewish city official who asked not to be identified.

The official said the city had been trying to rush the plans through since March when US President George Bush objected to Soviet Jewish immigrants settling in East Jerusalem.

Palestinians waging a 31-month-long revolt against Israeli rule in the occupied territories view East Jerusalem as the future capital of an independent Palestinian state.

Israel, which annexed the east of the city in 1967, claims both sides as its capital.

Construction of the first stage of 8,000 housing units for Jews in the Pisgat Ze'ev East neighbourhood, beside West Bank Arab villages in north Jerusalem, started last March.

"Municipal officials say work could start soon on 2,200 apartments that would become the Rekhes Shufat neighbourhood to house religious Jews from West Jerusalem and immigrants."

Boxer said the municipality was trying to rush plans for the new neighbourhoods through the Interior Ministry, using a law designed to speed approval of housing projects.

The new law, passed because of a growing housing crisis created by the influx of tens of thousands of Soviet Jews, cuts through the bureaucracy by combining local and regional planning committee approval for projects of at least 200 units.

"They want to Judaize the city by establishing facts on the ground. They think through that they can prevent the city from returning to Arab sovereignty," said Youssef Khoury, an engineer who heads an Arab organisation trying to promote housing for Arabs in Jerusalem.

Amir Cheshin, adviser to Mayor Teddy Kolek on Arab affairs, told Reuters recently that some 30,000 housing units had been built for Jews in Arab East Jerusalem in the last 23 years.

Boxer said she was not aware of any Arab housing projects built with municipal help other than a small complex erected in the 1970s in Beit Hanina neighbourhood.

Palestinians say housing plans for Jews are being approved faster than ever, while plans for some Arab neighbourhoods have been under study since 1967.

Municipal plans to build 18,000 housing units for Arabs in East Jerusalem were scrapped by the Interior Ministry before they were completed, Boxer said.

She said the ministry also objected to a reduced plan to build 12,000 housing units for Arabs and are now working on a proposal for 7,500. If that plan was approved, further steps would be needed before construction could start.

Now some of Israel's 700,00 Arabs are worried.

Aoun softens with Syria

Hirawi in Damascus talks: 45 feared burnt in Beirut

BEIRUT, July 27. (Agencies) Christian General Michel Aoun, who said last year that Syrian President Hafez Assad should have his head crushed, described Syria today as a friend of the Lebanese people.

"We feel there is a genuine state of friendship between the Lebanese people and Syria. The Syrians have welcomed and encouraged our policy of openness," Aoun said in an interview with the Visions World Television News Agency.

Aoun, who inherited power in the Christian enclave when Lebanon was without a president in 1988-89, waged a six-month "war of liberation" last year in an unsuccessful effort to drive Syria's 40,000 troops from Lebanon. Pro-Aoun politicians have been visiting Muslim West Beirut in the past few weeks for talks with pro-Damascus and pro-Iranian leaders.

Prime Minister Selim Hoss issued a statement in Beirut today saying "Aoun bears a grave responsibility ... in waging a new chance to salvage the Lebanese society."

He said Aoun could not "halt the march of national reconciliation, peace and rebuilding" in Lebanon. He pledged to take "necessary measures" but did not elaborate.

Lebanese President Elias Hiriawi made a surprise visit to Damascus yesterday and had talks with President Hafez Al Assad on the latest developments in Lebanon, officials said today.

They said the talks dealt with the Lebanese government's plan to implement the Taif agreement and extend its authority over all Lebanon. The sources said Assad confirmed his support for the plan.

Hiriawi and Hoss announced a plan on July 11 under

which their forces would take control of areas in Christian East Beirut from Aoun's 15,000 troops and the rival Lebanese Forces militia. The LF says it is ready to accept.

Aoun told Visions: "I proposed a more constructive and consistent plan that calls for the disbanding of all militias, stabilising the security situation and electing a new parliament."

"I don't think that there will be a confrontation because no one wants war or has the ability to launch one," he added.

Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi said yesterday Aoun had rejected a new Arab-sponsored peace initiative to end Lebanon's civil war.

Hundreds of villagers fled south Lebanon yesterday fearing Israel was about to invade and destroy newly established Palestinian positions.

The Palestinians moved into the mountainous area, a Shi'ite Muslim stronghold, in what they said was a bid to stop savage fighting between the pro-Iranian Hezbollah and Syrian-backed Amal militias that began on July 16.

At least 45 people were burned to death when fire from a blazing fuel tanker spread to a hotel in eastern Lebanon, security sources said yesterday.

They said most of the casualties were asleep when the Kassouf Hotel of the Syrian-controlled town of Chitaura, 45 km (28 miles) east of Beirut, caught fire late on Wednesday.

The blaze was caused by a fuel tanker which overturned, caught fire and hit the entrance of the hotel. The fire spilled over, trapping people who were sleeping, said one security source reached by telephone.

All Western hostages are alive, Kaufman

LONDON, July 27. (Kuna) The Syrian government has "indications" that all Western hostages kidnapped in the Lebanon are alive, Britain's opposition Labour Party foreign affairs spokesman Gerald Kaufman has said.

Although they were unable to provide him with clear evidence, he believed no news was good news.

Kaufman was speaking at London's Heathrow airport last night on returning from three days in Damascus, where he met Syrian leaders.

He had asked about the fate of British hostages, the Anglican church envoy Terry Waite, the TV journalist John McCarthy, the Belfast-born teacher, Brian Keenan, and the retired pilot, Jack Mann.

Kaufman was quoted by the British media today as saying the "Syria had many sources of information, and none had even leaked the suggestion of the death of any hostage."

"Had a hostage died, it would be hard to keep it secret for long and this indicated that they were all still alive," Kaufman concluded.

Belgium said its was ready to free a Palestinian jailed for killing a Jewish child in a grenade attack once four Belgian hostages had been freed by their captors in the Middle East.



Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir (right) shakes hands with president of Soviet Union's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vladimir Malkevitch. (Reuters wirephoto)

Israeli-Soviet trade pact signed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 27. (Reuters) Israel and the Soviet Union agreed today to establish trade ties despite not having full diplomatic relations, Israeli officials said.

"We signed an agreement to establish economic relations. We will exchange official representatives in the form of trade offices in Tel Aviv and Moscow," said Dan Gillerman, president of the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce.

He said Soviet officials were already in Tel Aviv to open an office of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce. Israeli officials will travel to Moscow next month, he said.

The agreement was signed with the visiting president of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vladimir Malkevitch, the most senior Soviet trade official to visit Israel since Moscow severed ties over the 1967 Middle East war.

Malkevitch met Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir today and Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai on Wednesday.

The European Economic Community will not increase economic co-operation with Israel, currently worth \$10 billion a year, now or after 1992, if Tel Aviv does not move quickly towards peace with the Palestinians, it was reported today in London.

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Ethiopia no longer proclaims Marxism, plans private enterprise, says foreign minister

WASHINGTON, July 27. (AP) Ethiopia no longer proclaims itself communist and is planning a future of perestroika, private enterprise, political competition and reconciliation, says the foreign minister.

Once the staunchest Soviet ally in Africa, Ethiopia is also on a road to stronger ties with the United States, Minister Tesfaye Dinka told a reporter after two days of meetings with Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, other State Department officials and members of Congress.

Talk with Eagleburger lasted nearly an hour and was described by Tesfaye as "an important milestone" toward improving US relations, long downgraded in disagreement over human rights abuses in Ethiopia. It was perhaps the highest-level US-Ethiopian meeting in a decade.

There was no public declaration, however, about normalisation, which would include restoring diplomatic representation to the level of ambassador.

The minister said he thanked Eagleburger for US food relief shipments to his starvation-threatened country and assured him that the governments of Ethiopia and Israel were "in complete understanding about continuing emigration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel."

Eagleburger urged that an estimated 15,000 remaining Ethiopian Jews be allowed to leave and voiced concern about reports that the flow had been interrupted, said a US official who insisted on

anonymity.

Tesfaye said he and Eagleburger discussed current efforts for settlement of the 29-year Eritrean rebellion and the need for the international community to get insurgents controlling Massawa port in northern Ethiopia to open it to food shipments.

"Political competition I think will be on the agenda" of peace talks with the Eritrean movement, "and I think it's something that will come about," Tesfaye told reporters. Details are uncertain, but the constitution will be revised if necessary, he added.

The government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam is undertaking economic and political changes that will produce a market-oriented econ-

omy with greater incentives and encouragement for domestic and foreign investors, Tesfaye said.

Mengistu's earlier proclamations of Marxism were rhetoric describing goals "and the direction we were going," rather than the actual situation, he added.

Perestroika, the Soviet reform policy ushered in by Mikhail Gorbachev, helped influence the changes in Ethiopia, he said, adding that relations with Moscow remain good.

The Bush administration yesterday lashed out against the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), accusing it of obstructing United Nations supplies from going into the port of Massawa.

KUWAIT ... GULF

State to pay high prices for local wheat

Step to encourage farmers

HEAD of the General Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, Sheikh Ibrahim Duaij Al Ibrahim Al Sabah has said that the authority will buy locally produced wheat at double the international price for the second season upon initiatives from HH the Amir.

Interviewed by Kuna, Sheikh Ibrahim said that the authority will buy wheat at the same prices of last season despite the

decline of prices internationally. He added that such a step will be taken in order to encourage wheat farmers in Kuwait.

Sheikh Ibrahim pointed out that a report prepared by Kuwait Mills and Bakeries Company on Kuwait wheat specifications was encouraging. He added that bread produced from local wheat tasted better as compared with other imported

products. The average rate of wheat production for each planted donum was 209.7 kilograms.

Publications

He indicated that the authority had purchased modified seedlings fit for the local environment for the next season. The authority has also provided farmers with the necessary fertilisers.

The authority is keen to have a good wheat season and it has prepared several publications for farmers which include ideal methods for agriculture. Several guidance symposiums have been held in agricultural areas aimed at improving wheat production.

In the 1988/89 season a total of 239 farms with a total area of 5,216.5 donums were planted with wheat.

Standard measures and specifications in GCC

Information centre soon

LEADERS of the GCC states have comprehended the importance of co-ordinating efforts in supporting their economic interests as unification of standards and measures among GCC states is essential to facilitate commercial exchange.

Plan

A decision issued in Bahrain Nov 9, 1982 approved the transformation of the Saudi Specifications and Measures Authority to a Gulf authority. The new authority specialises in specifications and measures for GCC states. The Commercial Co-operation Committee in its meeting in Bahrain dated Oct 10, 1983 believed that such a transformation should be carried out gradually. The GCC states' Specifications and Measures Authority was thus established on July 17, 1984 and empowered to formulate specifications and measures in GCC states. One of its duties is to approve and publish Gulf measures and specifications in addition to implementing measures via concerned authorities at each of the member states.

The authority also carried out the duties of designing a comprehensive plan for measure works in various fields. It supervises legal evaluation works as well as issuing quality stamps. The authority is also appointed to carry out research studies aimed at developing its works and activities in addition to holding awareness campaigns.

Despite the recent foundation of the authority, it was able to complete a total of 120 Gulf measure specifications in various fields such as food, chemicals, mechanics, electricity, and construction. The authority is currently engaged in completing a total of 250 other Gulf measures and specifications in various sectors.

Other facilities designed by the authority include the establishment of an information centre considered to be the first of its kind in the field of measures and specifications. The centre provides modern information for the most recent scientific methods.

Library

The authority library includes 6,500 references and more than

200,000 international specifications in addition to more than 750 microfilm videos attached with international specifications in English. Such video tapes are updated on a monthly basis for research purposes.

The information centre at the authority is also provided with advanced computers to store information and prepare computer programmes for authority works and activities.

Spreading awareness on measures is considered to be one of the main duties of the authority. The authority established a special information channel represented by the Measures and Specifications magazine.

The authority depends on laboratories in conducting experiments and analyses linked with Gulf measures and specifications.

The authority is keen to upgrade the level of national staff. So far, nine training courses were held since the authority's establishment. Such courses covered various fields aimed at improving performance among employees on different fields.

Sheep deaths

Inadequate ventilation main cause, says report

NEW ZEALAND, July 27. (AP): Agriculture Ministry officials in Wellington yesterday cited inadequate ventilation as the main reason for the deaths of almost 10,000 sheep shipped to Saudi Arabia last month.

Veterinarian Garth Pannett and livestock officer Rob Clements were aboard the fully enclosed "Corno Express" at the time. Their report said all sheep they checked had higher-than-normal body temperatures, with many well past the point at which death was regarded as inevitable.

The report to Agriculture Minister Jim Sutton said sheep on some decks were almost frantic as they tried to get near air vents when night temperatures hit 35 Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) and humidity 97 per cent.

It said the heat problems began soon after the Corno Express entered the Gulf of Aden, 22 days after leaving New Zealand's South Island with 81,261 live sheep.

Within three days, 4,780 sheep had died, most from heat stress, others from suffocation.

The 12 per cent death rate was the highest recorded for the New Zealand live-sheep export trade.

An inquiry committee which includes representatives from the ministry, the Live Sheep Export Trade, the Federated Farmers, the Veterinary Association and Animal Welfare Group, has received the report and is expected to issue recommendations within the next couple of days.

Meteorological dept. ensures up-to-date weather reports

DIRECTOR of the Meteorological Department Abdullah Al Asfoor has said that the department contributes significantly to the issue of warnings of different kinds to people to protect them and ensure their safety.

He said that the department issued monthly and annual climatic reports on various aspects of the Kuwaiti climate and provided all public facilities, government ministries and companies with needed meteorological data forecasts as needed for government projects.

He added that weather forecast control deals with the collection of weather conditions data which it classified and printed on special meteorological maps and provided them to different vital services, such as the Civil Aviation Directorate, Kuwait Armed Forces, different public media and other services.

He pointed out that there are other services performed by the control which include an issue of weather forecast every 24 hours or every six hours which is transmitted to external users, and also compiles weather forecast bulletins for Kuwait T.V. and radio stations including meteorological data on the weather conditions and temperatures in major world cities.



KD 31.8m contract signed

Public Works Minister Jassam Mohammed Al Mousa Thursday signed a KD 31.8 million contract with a local firm to expand and upgrade the sewage treatment station at Al Ardhiya.

The first phase of the 40-month project is due to start in September. Minister Mousa told Kuna that the project will help increase the station's absorption capacity of sewage water and also eliminate the disturbing smells.

He noted that the smells result from operating the station above its maximum capacity, but predicted that this problem will be resolved by the end of the first stage, two years after the starting date.

Mousa said that the station's sewage water capacity will be increased from 70,000 cubic metres to 250,000 cubic metres until the year 2005.

The minister added that the project also includes the expansion of the central electronic monitoring system, as well as the construction of a new adminis-

tration building, labs and a high-tech training centre over 3,000 square metres of land.

He said that the operation will continue throughout the execution of the project.

He affirmed that treated sewage water can be used for irrigation without causing any harm to man.

Mousa previously signed a contract valued at KD25 million for works to develop and landscape pavements used by pedestrians in Farwaniya and Jahra governorates. The project is to be completed within 730 days and includes construction and maintenance of pavements with coloured bricks on main roads and around public establishments. Special facilities for handicapped persons have been specifically designed and incorporated in the contract.

On the other hand, minister Mousa signed a contract for similar works and projects at Ahmedi Governorate. The contract is valued KD2 million and is to be completed in 730 days.



Transportation by vanette

Drivers request GTD to make it legal again

KUWAIT is considered one of the advanced countries in the field of providing transportation to residents. Kuwait Public Transportation Company has provided buses to all areas at scheduled times and with enough buses to transport citizens. In addition to public state transportation other transportation facilities like taxis and taxi offices are available. Another transportation facility which has no specific path and is considered better for many citizens are pick-up trucks known as "vanettes". With the high number of pick-ups and the rising number of complaints from taxi offices and taxi cabs, the General Traffic Department issued several laws to prevent the use of "vanettes".

A local daily interviewed a number of vanette owners to highlight their opinions and the reason behind their insistence in transporting passengers even though it is illegal.

Gholam Ali stated that he had never heard about any laws issued by the General Traffic Department preventing pick-up drivers from transferring passen-

gers. He said that he cannot read, and that is probably the reason he has no idea about such laws. He indicated that he works as a construction worker and after finishing his job he uses his pick-up to transfer passengers for money. He said that he works for six to seven hours daily on the vanette with an average daily income of KD 4-5. He indicated that sometimes of his construction job tires him out so he doesn't ferry passengers every day. He called on the General Traffic Department to reconsider the law and to permit them to work with their pick-up trucks so that they can make ends meet.

Honest living
Maarof Ahmad said that he works at a government ministry with a small salary. He is a father of a number of children who receive education at private schools in addition to the house rent at KD 100 and living expenses. He indicated that the decision taken by the traffic department is harmful to him because he works on a vanette to earn an honest living. He said that other legal transportation

facilities available in the country are restricted to specific routes. On the other hand, vanettes have no limited routes and are capable of giving passengers a ride to the place they want. He said that he gains a daily income of KD 8-10 by working evening hours even though there are a large number of taxis and taxi offices which could transport passengers at cheaper rates.

Khamees Hamed Al Omari, a retired Kuwaiti citizen said that he has been working on his vanette for a year now. The new law does not allow working on vanettes for personal purposes and he called upon the General Traffic Department to prevent anyone working without a permit. He stated that the law preventing retired Kuwaiti citizens at the age of 60 driving pick-up trucks is unfair.

'Wasta' is now a way of life

A NUMBER of citizens have pointed out that 'wasta' has now become a necessity to complete any transaction at any government ministry and establishment. They added that such a phenomenon is common to developing countries. They also said that the use of wasta is caused mainly by the mood of employees, the small size of society, a lack of management and the high number of administrative complications.

They added that 'wasta' can take many forms. The most simple and least harmful of which is the one used to avoid complications and speed up the completion of transactions. The most dangerous is the one used to violate and break laws.

One of the disadvantages caused by 'wasta' is putting the wroog individual in the wrong place and providing gain to unworthy individuals.

Citizens pointed out that employment policies depends on 'wasta'. They indicated that holders of good scientific qualifications along with 'wasta' could obtain highly lucrative post. At the same time, those who only have 'wasta' can obtain such post without any qualifications.

'They added that the 'wasta' has become a way to fame and illegal profit for many individuals.

Saad Al Harbi said 'wasta' is considered one of the social diseases in contemporary society. He said this phenomenon started to spread through many channels in society and should combat it in every possible way. He considered 'wasta' to be dangerous for society due to the fact that it kills competition and the chance for equal opportunity.

Um Anwar pointed out that 'wasta' has become a feature of life in Kuwait. Unfortunately, all transactions even medical treatment requires 'wasta'. She pointed out that it is a disease which started to spread its tentacles through every ministry and establishment.

Iyad Al Roshod said that individuals in the higher income bracket enjoy the use of 'wasta' more than anybody else in the country. He said 'wasta' is not only widespread in developing societies but, in advanced society as well. He indicated that dishonesty was the main cause behind this phenomenon.

Abdul Razzaq Rasheed said that it has become very difficult to resolve 'wasta' in Kuwait for many reasons, most important is that it will cause embarrassment to people. He pointed out that strict laws and measures should be applied on violators in order to avoid this phenomenon.

Masud Al Khatrash said that most societies suffer from the 'wasta' problems. He did not consider the phenomenon to be a problem due to the small size of the society.

Correction

THE name which appeared under the photograph that accompanied the article "More Kuwaitis marrying Filipinas" in the Thursday/Friday edition of the Arab Times on Page 9 was incorrect. The gentleman pictured is Hisham Abu Houtal, an Egyptian, and not Hisham Abu Ajeel. We regret any inconvenience our error may have caused.



Weather
HOT summer weather with moderate northerly wind may freshen at times.
State of sea: Moderate
High water: 3.56 am, 3.54 pm
Low water: 10.11 am, 10.15 pm
Sunrise: 5.06 am
Sunset: 6.43 pm
Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 50°C (112°F)
Abuhadi: 46°C (115°F)
Fahala: 48°C (118°F)
Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 31°C (88°F)
Abuhadi: 36°C (97°F)
Fahala: 32°C (90°F)
Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 19 per cent
Abuhadi: 32 per cent
Fahala: 25 per cent

Best tailors, prices available in Kuwait

Dishdashas

DISHDASHAS are the national costumes in Kuwait and the GCC countries and to highlight the various stages of manufacture, outlets of sales, price ranges and quality, a local daily interviewed a number of tailors, fabric shop owners and purchasers.

Sayed Jaseem Al Mousawi, a tailor who has been in the profession for the past 35 years said that he has six other tailors at the shop who are paid on a monthly basis, in addition to others who are employed on daily wages.

He indicated that the beginning of summer and winter witness the highest turnover in sales of dishdashas. In the interim, sales are very low as there is an exodus of people. He indicated that during the high season, the shop makes a monthly profit of KD1,500. Tailoring a dishdasha costs KD3 each — including labour, he said.

He disclosed that other GCC residents come to Kuwait to have their dishdashas tailored as Kuwait has the lowest prices with highly skilled tailors.

Demand

Mousawi pointed out that his shop tailors more summer dishdashas than the winter style. The Swiss-type fabric is in high demand by customers because they are most comfortable and don't stick to the body. On the rise of dishdashas prices, he said that rents, tailors' wages and materials have increased in price and reflect on the price of dishdashas.

Ali Gholam Ali, the owner of a tailor shop in Sharq said that he has been in this profession for 18 years. He has a total of nine tailors at the shop all receiving monthly salaries.

During Eid and other occasions, Ali's shops produce an estimated 120 dishdashas daily. The tailoring fees start from KD four to five. In general, Ali indicated that tailoring prices in Kuwait are adequate and not expensive like people say.

On the other hand, one fabric merchant said that fabrics vary in prices according to quality. Some types of fabrics are sold at 500 fils per metre and other types KD2 per metre. He added that the Japanese made fabric are the most common among customers.

The highest sales season for fabrics begins early summer and during occasions and Eid. He pointed out that the fabric trade is not as lucrative as it was in the past due to the large number of fabric shops in the country.

Abdul Wahab Husain, a consumer said that he wears out nine dishdashas during summer. He added that dishdasha prices have increased due to the fact that merchants link their trade to the rates of the yen and dollar. He hoped that the government will establish a national dishdasha tailoring factory. He pointed out that such a factory will fight expensive tailoring and will help consumers.

Bourse develops investment opportunities

THE director-general of the Kuwait Stock Exchange Hesham Al Otaihi has said that in the wake of the Manakb crisis, the re-organising of the Kuwait stock market on sound basis was inevitable. Hence, an Amiri decree was issued in 1983 which called for developing trade regulations in the stock market to serve economic development and attain the objectives of the country's economic policy.

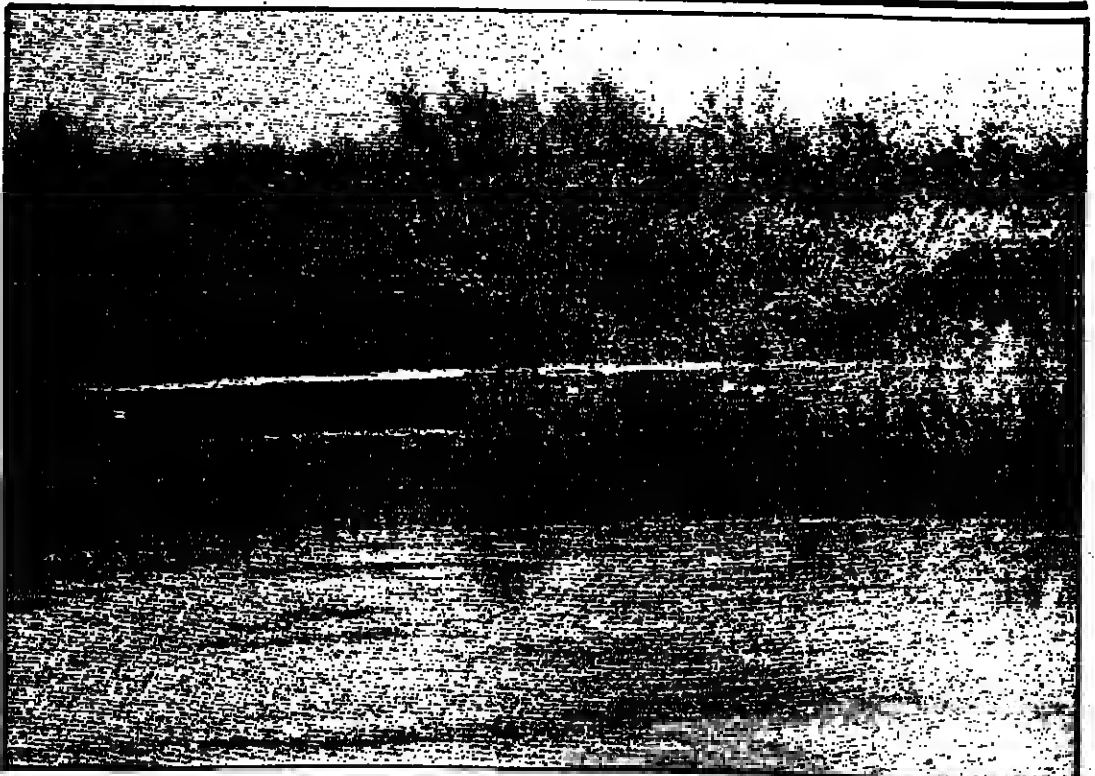
In an interview with the Kemia magazine, the official said that the market has developed financial vehicles such as bonds floatation of financial papers and recently a new system had been adopted which is represented by the setting up of investment funds.

Meanwhile, the official described the Kuwaiti stock market as distinguished and as a pioneer on the Arab level.

He clarified that it would be unfair to compare the performance of the Kuwait stock market with its counterparts in the advanced countries. However, he confirmed that the Kuwaiti market after the re-organisation process in 1983 is currently keeping abreast with economic development in Kuwait and the region.

Otaibi clarified that the second half of the 1970s and the beginning of the last decade has witnessed heightened activity and attributed this to the rise in oil prices which eventually led to an increase in government expenditure.

On the other hand, the official confirmed that government decisions adopted in December 1989 for reactivation of the country's national economy had positively affected the stock market as the bourse had witnessed significant activities in the wake of these decisions.



Migrant relief

The presence of natural reserves on Kuwaiti soil has been a source of relief to migrant flocks of birds which migrate to Kuwait, and take refuge from the biting cold of Europe and the drought of Arab desert.

In Jahra, along the Gulf coastline, the Environmental Protection Council has built a 2.5 km reserve and provided it with an artificial pond fenced with leafy trees and planted with suitable grass to provide refuge for migrant flocks of birds.

Seyassan cameraman toured the natural reserves during the high-heat of July which swarms with different species of birds hiding in the grass or on tree branches.

The secretary of the Kuwait Environmental Protection Council Ibrahim Hadi said that the council set up these reserves in co-operation with the Public to be the resting stations for migrant birds and hunting in these areas is banned and violators will be severely penalised.

1st Death Anniversary In everloving memory of



Joslyn Rosario Pinto
Born: 13-7-1919
Died: 28-7-1989

You will be forever remembered in our sorrowing hearts...

A tribute of love from wife Alice, children - Molly/Naren, Clement/Jessie, Sabina/Tony, Mildred/Vincent and grandchildren.

Belated requiem mass will be held on Friday, 12 October '90 at 8.00 am in the Holy Family Church, Kuwait.

Garbage recycling plant to protect environment

Project to cost KD8 million

THE chairman and managing director of the Organic Fertilisers Company Dr Waddad Al Suwaih has said that basic aim of establishing the company is to protect the local environment from pollution by getting rid of remains and using them after being treated. He added that the company is now studying offers of international contractors to select the best one to build a plant for producing organic fertilisers. He added that the project will cost about KD8 million and is expected to be completed within 30 months. He also expected that the plant will start production in the middle of 1992.

Dr Suwaih pointed out that the company in co-operation with the mun-

icipality will receive and run sites used to bury remains. The company will sort out the remains and garbage in these sites collected from houses and commercial areas as well as light industries in order to get them treated at the plant. He added that sorting out of these remains will enable the state to benefit from glass, paper and cartons besides other organic materials which will be converted to fertilisers.

Production

He added that plant production will reach about 600 tons a day after a short period of operation. This quantity will be produced from about 2,100 tons of remains treated everyday at the plant. He added that all of the production of fertil-

isers will be given to Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources to be used in cultivation and afforestation purposes. He added that fertilisers which will be produced in Kuwait will be of better quality because most of the refuse in Kuwait is food. The company does not look at the project from the commercial side because the project is not economical. He added that the greatest benefit is the protection of the environment from the dangers of these remains.

Dr Suwaih pointed out that the size of the remains will reduce gradually with about a quarter of the present collected quantity. Treating remains will save the land used to bury them beside reducing costs of burying which reach three dinars

per ton. He added that the municipality buries about 2,100 tons of remains a day. He added that the plant will need large quantities of water. The company plans to use treated sewage water in manufacturing works in co-operation with the Ministry of Public Works. He added that the only serious problem that faces the company is that some cleaning companies do not send the collected remains to places specialised and determined by the municipality.

Profits

A large quantity of these remains do not reach these places because companies prefer to bury them in close sites to get prompt profits from some sources that are not authorised to use the remains.

He added that some workers at these companies take out some of these remains before it reaches sites. He called to assume strict punishment against these people. Relevant authorities should also have in informational campaign to enlighten people about harms of taking out some remains from containers.

Dr Suwaih pointed out that the best method to benefit from remains and reduce costs is provide bags for food remains and others for papers and other materials in homes. This means that people in their houses can sort out the remains. This method is being carried out in many advanced countries and can be applied in Kuwait in future, he said.

Gnehm appears before US Senate

WASHINGTON, July 27, (Kuna): President Bush's nominee to be the new American ambassador in Kuwait, Edward (Skip) Gnehm, Wednesday

appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, thus passing a major hurdle before his confirmation by the full Senate, which is expected to take place next week.

Gnehm is considered one of the State Department's top experts on the Gulf and the Arab world, having served in various capacities in recent years.

He is currently deputy assistant secretary of state for the Near East and South Asian Affairs, responsible for directing and co-ordinating US foreign policy for the Arabian Gulf and Gulf States, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

Prior to his present position, he was deputy assistant secretary for defence for the Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs in the office of the secretary of defence.

He has served in various capacities in Amman, Sanaa, Riyadh, and Damascus in addition to serving in Lebanon, Vietnam and Nepal.

Gnehm, who did graduate work at the American University in Cairo, speaks both Arabic and French fluently and is married with two teenage children.

The new ambassador in a prepared statement spoke highly of Kuwait's role at the regional and international levels. He also answered several questions by the committee's chairman Senator Danile Moynihan on the current tensions in the Gulf.



Hottest summer ever

A responsible source at the Meteorological Department has attributed the hike in temperatures during the last week to winds from the east that pass over a super heated desert and arrive here hot and dry. Temperature on Wednesday showed 51.2 Celsius and was 50.6 degrees Celsius Thursday. Summer 1990 is now considered the hottest Kuwait has ever seen. Although most people are making it a point to stay indoors some are forced to go out in the scorching heat. Pictures show a nice cream vendor hot under his umbrella, while a lady puts the Arab Times to better use.



Transfer of technology crucial, says academic

By Diana Abou Halder
Arab Times staff

WITH the lack of an appropriate legal framework, and the need for more co-operation between local industrial, academic and research institutions, Kuwait is still purchasing technology rather than transferring it, said Dr Salah Al Ali.

The assistant professor at the Faculty of Technological Studies explained that successful transfer of scientific know-how in its hardware and software forms, means that the recipient country should become actively involved in understanding the technology, absorbing it and developing it to suit its local needs and enhance its capabilities.

"The aim of successful transfer of technology from developed to developing countries isn't to overcome the latter's dependency on the former, but to reduce it as much as possible," said Ali. "This will consequently help us in developing the proper scientific and technical infrastructure."

Ali, whose 1988 Ph.D. thesis was about technology transfer in Kuwait, said that one of the main obstacles to an effective transfer is the non-existence of appropriate legal framework.

"Despite the huge quantity of technology imported into Kuwait, we have no specific regulations for directing and controlling the flow of this technology into the country. The only law we have is the 1963 industrial law that hasn't changed ever since."

He added that other developing countries that are not as rich as Kuwait have succeeded in establishing such regulations.

Shortage
"India has had a policy since 1978 for screening imported technologies to select appropriate ones and eliminate any foreign enterprises that pose restrictions on local participation in industrial projects that involve transfer of technology. In Brazil, the National Institute of Industrial Property stipulates conditions for working licenses."

Another obstacle that faces successful technology transfer in Kuwait is the shortage of qualified indigenous scientific and technical manpower in almost all sectors of the economy, stated Ali. "At the university, Kuwaiti students seem to shy away from scientific subjects and take up humanities because they say humanities are easier. I believe that the problem should be addressed in secondary school as well. More science subjects should be included in the curricula."

"As for vocational and technical schools, they are yet to meet their main objective of providing middle level manpower. The curricula of these schools should be revised because they are not properly integrated with other aspects of the Kuwaiti educational system and the market requirements. Also, more incentives must be offered to graduates of such schools in order to attract them and so that they won't feel inferior to their university counterparts," explained Ali adding that efforts should be made to encourage more females to enroll in such institutions.

"There is a need to link vocational and technical schools with industry and the research and development centres so that their graduates get the opportunity to develop their much needed skills."

Obstacle
According to Ali, inadequate dissemination of technical information is a third obstacle Kuwait



Dr Salah Al Ali

needs to overcome. "Only two agencies, the National Scientific and Technical Information Centre, and the Patent Office, have been created to collect and disseminate information about science and technology imported to the country."

Ali added that an effective information system is needed for the appropriate selection of new technology, a process that depends on timely information.

"The Patent Office at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has a shortage of qualified manpower and lacks laboratories and efficient information services, and will early this year, no patent has been granted to any Kuwaiti."

Another hurting issue that haunts Ali is that technology transfer in Kuwait and other Gulf countries is not taking place through the right channels. "It is mostly happening through purchase of machinery and turn-key projects where we sit back and let others do all the work without any significant local participation."

He explained: "In turn key contracts, the transfer often builds and assembles equipment at the parent company, and simply delivers it to be installed and made ready for operation. Consequently, buyers are often not given an opportunity to learn about the building, assembly and installation of equipment. The transferee has then purchased a closed technological package or a 'black box' without knowledge of the technical intricacies of what he has bought. The long-term consequences of such a 'blind deal' can be severe. Indigenous personnel are denied the opportunity to develop and improve their skills, and the country must continue to rely on the supplier's expertise and manpower to maintain and sustain imported technology."

Research
Closely related to the issue of channels of transfer is the issue of isolating local academic and research institutions from the process, said Ali. He explained that research institutions play a major role in enhancing the bargaining power of the technology buyer as far as costs and terms of purchasing as well as in adapting imported technologies and unpacking them. "This will con-

sequently reduce the country's dependence on foreign technology and accelerate the process of national technological self-reliance."

"But how can we enhance local capabilities if we isolate institutions such as Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and Kuwait University from the process of technology transfer and how can we build trust between these institutions and the industry?" wondered Ali. He added that KISR has succeeded in helping local industries solve technical problems, but it should make more effort in linking its activities to the local industries and designing goal-driven programmes to evaluate the most effective way of transferring technology to the country.

Ali suggested that Kuwait Oil Company, Petrochemical Industries Company and Kuwait National Petroleum Company be allowed to establish research and development centres that would be encouraged to work closely with KISR.

"Even at the early and important stage of a feasibility study for an industrial project, we don't seek the local sector. Why don't we at least submit such studies done by foreign companies to KISR or KU to take a look at them and tell us what they think?" asked Ali, adding that foreign enterprises aim at profit maximisation by marketing their technologies and are not keen on whether locals take in the technology or not. "They are usually very careful about giving away the know-how of their technologies and most of these technologies are protected by patents."

Manpower
But out of 15 major projects in petroleum industry and electricity that involve transfer of technology to Kuwait studied by Ali in his thesis, only in one project the suppliers had restrictions on transferring their know-how to indigenous technical staff. "And yet we didn't benefit from the rest of the projects," lamented Ali.

Last but not least is the issue of manpower training. Ali believes that training has been neglected by recipient personnel. "In general, training agreements between the recipient firms and the suppliers were too vague. Clauses didn't specify in detail the period of training, the number of candidates, the qualification requirements, or the time scale required for the replacement of foreign expertise by indigenous manpower," he stated. "Budgets allocated for training purposes were very low compared to the budget of the project."

For a more successful technology transfer process, Ali recommended the establishment of a centre to co-ordinate research and development activities in the country. Such a centre would help avoiding the duplication of research projects which is a waste of manpower, time and money. He also suggested that a committee for the transfer of foreign technology be formed and charged with the responsibility of establishing criteria for the selection of appropriate technologies in addition to evaluating imported technology and classifying information about available technology in a data bank that makes it readily available to local firms.

"A centre should be established for training local personnel in the specialised areas of technology transfer, technology evaluation, forecasting and patent activities. The centre should be also charged with the responsibility of improving the mechanisms for the successful adoption, adaptation and diffusion of acquired technology. This will speed up the development of local technology," concluded Ali.

Opec

(Continued from Page 1)

prices at the pump — would not automatically climb just because Opec notched up its benchmark. But if the Opec reined in production, crude prices could rise.

In the United States, for example, energy experts said consumers will also probably see a jump in prices of gasoline and heating oil, but they said it was not likely to occur right away.

"We have a crude oil surplus currently of 50 million barrels (in the United States) ... and it's going to take at least a year to work off that excess," said Brian Tagler, an energy broker with Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc.

The average price of a basket of crudes monitored by Opec surged to \$20.46 a barrel in early January but skidded to \$13.64 last month. It rebounded to \$16.25 last week.

An output cap of 22.5 million barrels a day would be 400,000 barrels more than the current ceiling. But it would be under the actual production estimated at 23 million barrels or more a day.

Under the plan, the UAE's quota will rise from 1.1 million barrels a day to 1.5 million. It now is producing about 2 million barrels a day, analysts say.

Opec oil ministers agreed today to set up two groups to make sure that all 13 members stick to their production quotas and thus keep prices firm by not swamping the market.

The watchdog groups, according to a new price and production accord, comprise seven and six members respectively.

Named to the first group were Algeria, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iraq, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Members of the second group were Gabon, Iran, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar and Venezuela.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said today key oil producers should co-operate to drive the price of crude to \$30 a barrel.

"Let the Soviets co-operate with a few Opec countries — we are ready, so are the Iraqis, Libyans and Algerians — and say 'we will not sell oil at less than \$30'."

Quotas allocated

Algeria, 827,000; Ecuador 273,000; Gabon 197,000; Indonesia 1,374,000; Iran 3,140,000; Iraq 3,140,000; Kuwait 1,500,000; Libya 1,233,000; Nigeria 1,611,000; Qatar 371,000; Saudi Arabia 5,380,000; United Arab Emirates 1,500,000; Venezuela 1,945,000. Total 22,491,000.

Bronze medal for Kuwait

KUWAIT won the bronze medal in the 31st International Maths Olympiad held in Beijing, China.

The Ministry of Education, through the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences had sent four Kuwaiti students from the secondary stage to participate.

Abdul-Rahman Abdullah Ali Mohammed from the Salem Al Mubarak Secondary School was awarded the bronze medal which was registered in the name of the State of Kuwait.

A total of 54 countries, including five from Arab world, participated in the Olympiad.

Kuwait

(Continued from Page 1)

regard. Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki, said today he expected a quick reconciliation between the Gulf neighbours.

"I believe that the next few days will witness more of a settlement between the two and matters will advance to a normal situation," Sedki said on arrival in Amman for regular talks with his Jordanian counterpart Mudar Badran.

Arab world media today expressed satisfaction over the Kuwaiti-Iraqi meeting saying that such a meeting would encourage resolving the Iraqi dispute with Kuwait and the UAE.

"The matter is merely a passing summer cloud," said the Qatari newspaper Ar-Raya. "Kuwaiti-Iraqi

I'M a Filipino. I'm writing on behalf of a compatriot who took grocery worth KD65 from a company with an agreement in pay it back on monthly instalments. Due to some problems, he failed to pay for almost three months and asked to pay half the sum. They did not agree and said he owed KD87, including interest. My friend could not borrow the money. By this time, the debt became KD188. The owner's wife said if he paid KD30, they would reduce the balance to KD60. So, last month he gave KD30. To his surprise, they sent him a notice. He talked to them again, and they said if he paid KD50 monthly, they will stop sending notices.

Is there a law allowing a big interest on those who fail to pay their debts on time? Can we do something about it? Not only my friend, but other Filipinos are also victims of that company.

Please advise him.

Name and address supplied.

LEGALLY, the interest for any loan according to commercial law is not more than seven per cent per year. For banks and others establishments, it does not exceed 10 per cent. If the shopkeeper is asking for more than this amount, it is forbidden and against the law, and he can't force you to pay it, especially if the credit itself does not mention that you have to pay the interest.

If they are asking for a higher interest rate, they are committing a criminal offence, and you can file a case against them, at the nearest police station.

There is no law, allowing a big interest, and the maximum is 10 per cent. And as I said, it must be mentioned on paper, what the interest is, and if you are repaying any amount owed, get a receipt with an authorised signature. After you repay the owed sum, stop paying. And let them file a case against you, and if there is any interest, the judge will tell you how much to pay. In most instances, it is not much.

THE LABOUR law amendment of July 14, 1990 states that expatriates who are residing in Kuwait for 10 consecutive years are exempted from the two years minimum requirement for transfer of residence. Can you please clarify whether "ten years" means dependent residence or work permit no. 18?

A reader.

EVEN the March 1989 resolution does not qualify the working residence; and as the worker comes under the social affairs ministry for transfer of residence, it applies only to expatriates holding no 18 visas. The change in the resolution by the new minister does not explain the matter clearly, however, it will be applied for the workers holders of visa no 18 as it was done previously.

I AM a Filipino working as a secretary in Kuwait. I have a Kuwaiti boyfriend who is a police officer. He wants to marry me. He has already begun procedures to take consent from his office and to secure clearance for marriage. Is there any regulation prohibiting a policeman marrying a Filipino? Please let me know as I am disturbed. I love this man very much. My family in the Philippines also likes him. I have already obtained a consent from my embassy here. Is there a need for my sponsor to give his consent in case we get married? All these questions have been bothering me. I need Attorney Khaled Taher's advice and help. I can't sleep or eat thinking about my problems.

H.A.D.

ATTORNEY Khaled Taher says Interior Ministry rules do not permit a police officer to marry a foreign woman without obtaining prior approval from the ministry for such a marriage. Usually, an officer in the army or police is required to get clearance and take the approval from the ministry, even if the marriage is between a Kuwaiti police officer and a Kuwaiti lady. Actually, it is very difficult to get a clearance for such a marriage; the only thing you can do is to wait for the ministry's reply. Only your boyfriend will be in a position to tell you what the outcome of the request was and after that you can make plans.

I AM an Indian working in a private firm since 1984. The company works on a government construction project. Recently, I found another job and requested my present sponsor for a transfer of residence. He told me that a transfer is not possible, and my visa is only transferable from a government to another government project. He also claims this rule is applicable only to the Shuwaikh zone. My services have been terminated on completion of the project.

Kindly let me know if such a rule prevails. If yes, what is the remedy. Your advice would be appreciated.

A reader.

(Name and address supplied)

FOR you, there should be no problem in transferring to the new sponsor, as long as you have completed two years employment with the present sponsor. The July 14th resolution, issued by the minister of social affairs and labour, gives you the right to seek a transfer.

There is nothing in the law about certain restrictions applying to the Shuwaikh zone. If you have any doubts, we suggest you approach the Social Affairs Ministry for further clarification.

MY SISTER has been working in a Kuwaiti home. For the past ten months, she has no iqama. Her sponsor has not paid her salary. She will be completing two years employment with them. She wants to return to her country. How can we solve her problem.

M. Abdul Jabbar.

FILE a case against the sponsor asking for the air ticket and salary telling the court you want to return to your country. And treat the matter as though you are not aware that she has no valid residence.

I'VE been staying in Kuwait for more than five years. I am married to a Kuwaiti. I am an Asian. I have two children, both boys. My husband doesn't want me to change my dependent visa in a work permit. I am eager to work. Is it possible for me to apply for a Kuwaiti passport? How long does it take? Suppose my visa is changed, can I come back on a dependent permit.

Sunshine.

THE Kuwaiti law says a foreign woman must complete 15 years after the registration of the marriage in the nationality file of the husband. After 15 years of married life, you can apply for a Kuwaiti passport.

If you want a work permit, it is essential to get your husband's permission; your husband must agree to let you work. As he is the sponsor, and the agreement of both parties — the present and the future sponsor — is required.

On the other hand, your husband is responsible for you, and you must obey his wishes as long as he is paying your expenses and looks after you. If this is the case, you must look after your children rather than go out to work.

If you have a problem drop in a line to Action Line, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat Kuwait or fax your questions to us on Tel: 4847495.

Kuwaiti family duped in London

A LOCAL daily reported that a Kuwaiti family vacationing in London were duped by a gang of thieves who decamped with all the family's jewels and other valuables.

According to sources, the family had rented a flat to spend their summer vacations. The gang came to the flat and informed them that they were from a cleaning company and the family should collect their valuables and put it in a bag before they could proceed with the cleaning.

The family not suspecting any foul play, complied with the request, only to be snuffed by two of the gang members who then decamped with the bag and drove off in a car.

Sources said that investigations are under progress, though no further details were available at the time of going to press.

relations are deeply rooted and there are close links between the two peoples. It is in the interest of both countries and the Arabs to solve such marginal differences speedily and amicably."

"It is in the interest of no one that differences find their way out of the Arab household," the Saudi newspaper Ar-Riyadh said. "Even if there are divergent views, these must be solved through an objective dialogue."

"Iraqi newspaper officials said they received instructions from the Ministry of Information to halt attacks on Kuwait as part of an agreement to defuse the crisis between the two over oil production and border lines.

In Jeddah the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference urges the two member states to resolve their differences peacefully. It warned that any escalation of tension might bring foreign intervention in the region, especially from Israel.

OIC Secretary General Hamid Al Ghabid, in a statement received by Reuters in Nicosia, called on leaders of the two countries to "show moderation and use all their authority to defuse tension."

Ghabid also called on the OIC's 46 members "and all other parties to use their influence with the two countries to help them settle these differences amicably."

Britain welcomed the reduction of tensions in the Gulf.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

BEWARE of little expenses. A small leak will sink a great ship. — Benjamin Franklin, US statesman (1708-1790).

E. German integration

EC prepares legislation

BRUSSELS, (Reuters): It's Brussels instead of Biarritz this year for scores of Eurocrats who have been told to cancel holiday plans and work out how East Germany will become part of the European Community and what it will cost.

Hard-pressed to keep up with the pace of German unification set by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the EC's executive Commission is preparing a 200-page package of draft legislation that will make 16 million East Germans EC citizens.

"Now that the EC is backing German unity without ifs and buts, the task is to make integration of East Germany into the Community as smooth as possible," says an internal Commission paper.

In less-demanding times, EC business grinds to a halt in summer. This year the 17 commissioners are scheduled to hold a special meeting on Aug 21 and thousands of legal texts have to be vetted by then. Officials say the most difficult legal question will be how much time to give the East Germans to meet EC environmental standards after years of ecological neglect.

EC standards will immediately apply to all new factories, plant and installations but the Commission is still gathering data about pollution caused by old ones in order to decide which can be closed and which modernised.

"It seems the picture is going to be devastating," one Commission official said.

But always in Community affairs, money is at stake too. Extending EC farm subsidies, development programmes and social spending to East Germany could mean an increase in the annual budget of up to \$3.18 billion. The poorer EC members may be reluctant to contribute to the bill.

Bonn and East Berlin are planning all-German elections in December. The merger of the prosperous capitalist West with the former communist East is expected to take place in that month.

Unification will turn East Germany automatically into EC territory where an immense body of economic and legal rules assembled over almost 40 years become applicable overnight.

Law

"The general principle is that, from the day of formal unification, Community law takes force in East Germany," EC Commissioner Mario Bangemann told journalists last week.

Bangemann, who chairs a special "Germany" group of Commissioners and experts, said there were few problems with EC laws on the free circulation of people, mutual recognition of diplomas, financial services and public sector contracts.

Some 80 per cent of legislation abolishing technical trade barriers as part of the Community's drive to create a giant internal market after 1992 could also be introduced in East Germany directly, Bangemann said.

Commission experts think a transitional period until 1993 will be necessary to bring standards for some foodstuffs and chemicals into line with EC norms. The transition could be longer for some pharmaceutical products that have already been licensed in East Germany until 1995.

"Exceptions to the rule have to be as few in number and as limited in time as possible because the earlier market rules apply in the GDR (East Germany), the earlier the economy will recover from the coercive regime of the past decades," Bangemann said.

The Commission plans to finalise its proposals for temporary exemptions from EC law in mid-September and submit them immediately to the EC governments for approval.

The package will then be studied by a special group of government experts, scrutinised by the European Parliament on two separate occasions and must be adopted unanimously by EC ministers at a special meeting at the end of November.

Package

Officials acknowledge that would be an unprecedented feat for a legislative machine that more than once has spent decades passing one single piece of secondary legislation.

"But this time there is just no room for the usual bickering. We will get it through in time just because we have to," one diplomat said.

The package will also contain estimates on how much it could cost to welcome the East Germans.

Officials reckon that the EC's annual spending — the 1991 draft budget currently stands at 53 billion European Currency Units (\$67.3 billion) — has to be raised by two to 2.5 billion ECUS (\$2.54 to \$3.18 billion).

EC Regional Commissioner Bruce Millan believes that around one billion ECUS (\$1.27 billion) per year will be needed to cover East Germany's needs in structural funds aimed at helping backward or declining industrial centres.

Kohl has pledged that the Community have-nots such as Portugal, Greece and Ireland will not lose a penny of their own entitlements. Unless compensated by Bonn however, they will have to contribute to whatever additional funds the EC has to raise to accommodate the East Germans.

Under the Community's financing system, West Germany contributes over 25 per cent to the EC budget, making it the EC's biggest net payer.

"You can assume they'll keep that role after unification but to a somewhat lesser extent," said one EC budget specialist.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1540 — Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, is executed in England for treason.

1588 — Lord Admiral Howard of Effingham sends British fire ships to destroy many of Spanish galleons off Calais, France.

1643 — English parliamentary force under Oliver Cromwell takes Gainsborough.

1742 — Peace of Berlin between Austria and Prussia ends first Silesian war.

1794 — French revolutionaries M. Robespierre and A. Saint Just are executed.

1821 — Peru's independence from Spain is declared formally.

1866 — Danish constitution is revised in favour of king and Upper House.

1868 — Third Maori war breaks out in New Zealand.

1904 — Russia's Minister of Interior Viacheslav Plehve is assassinated.

1914 — Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia, signalling start of World War I.

1937 — Japanese seize Peking in China.

1940 — British forces repulse Nazi attack on Mediterranean island of Malta during World War II.

1945 — US Army bomber crashes into Empire State Building in New York City, killing 13 people.

1971 — China's Premier Chou En Lai says Peking government will refuse to enter United Nations if Nationalist China remains member.

1976 — Britain severs relations with government of Uganda's President Idi Amin.

1986 — Car stuffed with explosives rips through densely populated residential area of Christian East Beirut, killing at least 32 and wounding 140.

1988 — Tamil rebels kill 14 Sinhalese farmers, and Sri Lanka government troops are put on security alert.

1989 — India agrees to pull its troops out of Sri Lanka.

Christian population dwindles

Arabs migrate from occupied areas

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): A question mark hangs over the future of Christian Arabs in the holy land as centuries-old communities like Jerusalem and Bethlehem suffer a relentless haemorrhaging of their Christian population.

Pressed by violence and a severe economic squeeze as Israel fights to crush an Arab revolt against its rule of the occupied territories, thousands of Christians are seeking a new life abroad.

"The danger of emigration threatens both the church and the country," Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, the first Catholic Arab church leader in occupied Jerusalem, told a conference on emigration this month.

Sociologist Bernard Sabila said Christians have been emigrating since early this century but the pace has accelerated to the point where the existence of the ancient communities is threatened.

Population

"We are facing a very serious population drain," said Sabila, who recently concluded the first study on emigration among Christian Arabs from the territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

Although Muslims are leaving in smaller numbers, Christian Palestinians are more likely — and more able — to emigrate. They are richer, better educated and have more relatives abroad to help. They also are a shrinking minority in a Muslim-dominated society.

Christians are now down to three per cent of the 1.75 million Palestinians in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Thousands more hope to leave, Sabila said.

Sabila said a survey of 550 Christian families in East Jerusalem and the nearby West Bank towns of Bethlehem and Ramallah, indicated around 3,000 of the estimated 46,000 Christians in the area want to move out to work, study or live permanently.

Existing communities of Christian Arabs that have been growing in North and South America since early this century provide a magnet for further emigrants.

Palestinians say there are more former Ramallah residents in the United States than in their birthplace. The number of Beit Jala natives now living in Chile exceeds those in their West Bank town by three to one.

Hanna Abu Tom, a 40-year-old Bethlehem resident who had worked as a municipal driver for 40 years, moved to Chile six months ago. His wife and four children are packing to join him.

"Hanna could not live here anymore. His salary was not enough to provide for his family," said his aunt Rahme, 68. She has one son in the United States, another in Colombia and a daughter in Chile.

Community leaders express alarm at the growing demand to leave since the outbreak of Palestinian revolt in the occupied territories in December 1987. Dozens of Palestinians queue for visas outside the US consulate in Arab East Jerusalem every day.



Officials at the embassies of Canada and Australia also report increased demand.

Sabila said his study showed Christian Arabs who withstood the Arab-Jewish strife of the 1940s feel more vulnerable today. At least 681 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis during the current revolt.

Daily clashes, random raids by Israeli tax collectors, reduced business hours and slashed consumer buying power have crippled many Palestinian merchants.

Many Palestinian Christians left to pursue education because Israeli military authorities closed schools and universities during the revolt.

Sabila said 12 per cent of respondents in his survey reported they wanted to leave the country to get an education. Another 46 per cent want to go abroad to find work. There is more talk of eventually returning than will ever happen.

The emigration is draining away a Christian community that has been a key part of local society throughout the 13 centuries since the Muslim conquest.

Art Buchwald

Taking money from honest citizens

FOR the most part, the main congressional political battles in November will be between the incumbents and the challengers. The smart money is on the incumbents who are leading the challengers by odds of 8 to 1.

I visited the training camp of Sen Sang Froid, who is up for re-election and has victory written all over him.

I talked to Artie Maytag, the senator's manager.

"Your boy looks good," I told him.

"We're taking this match seriously. We're asking every political action committee to double their contribution because we're tired of being known as the 'Filene's Basement' of the Senate."

While we were talking, a man came up and gave Artie a satchel of bills.

"The senator blesses you," Artie told him. Then he explained to me who the man was. "He represents the solid waste hub-cap industry, and they consider Sang the best friend they have on the Hill."

"Doesn't the lobbyist ever get to go to a fund-raising dinner for that?" I asked.

Donor

"Dinners went out with narrow lapels. Now it's cash on the barrel, and the donor goes to the cafeteria of his choice. Frankly, even at \$1,000-a-

plate, the food was never that good."

A woman in a jogging suit ran by and stuck a cheque in Artie's pocket.

"She's from the canned halibut industry. The senator chairs all the legislation on canned fish. I'm glad she gave because that saves me having to buy her breakfast."

"Do the PACs ever distribute money to the challenger?"

"Why should they? The senator is their man — the special interests aren't going to waste their resources on an unknown rookie. This guy coming by now distributes all the funds for the fruitcake makers of America. He knows where Sang stands on fruitcake — so when he dumps his cash in that waste-paper basket over there, he's betting on Sang making fruitcake the national dessert of the country."

"The way things are going with the PACs it appears that a challenger may never win an election."

Favours

"I wouldn't know about that. My job is to make sure that those people who expect the senator to do favours for them when he gets elected, do right by him now. You remember Harry Tudoroff, the lobbyist for the bubble-gum workers of America?"

"I remember him, but I haven't seen him around," I replied.

"The reason you haven't seen him around is because he split his PAC contributions during the last election between the senator and the challenger, and we kicked him out of our Boosters' Club. From then on it was all downhill for him. When he couldn't even get his picture taken for National Bubble-Gum Day with Sang Froid, he wound up sleeping on a bench in Lafayette Park."

A Brinks truck drove by and two guards started to unload the money.

Artie said, "That's the savings & loans' contribution. They bring one every day hoping that the senator will bail them out."

"Will he?"

"The senator has always believed that, while making a few mistakes, the S & Ls always had their hearts in the right place. They never said 'no' to us during their good times. So he's not going to turn his back on them now."

"I wish there was some way that I could help, but I really don't have any legislation I want passed."

"It doesn't matter. We take money from honest citizens, too."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Eid celebrations

SIR: The Muslim world has just finished celebrating Eid Al Adha, the celebration at the end of the haj season. Thank you very much for printing the large article about haj and various aspects concerning it. I enjoyed it last time it was printed and this time was the same.

Regardless, I feel I must comment on two things I witnessed over the holidays in the newspaper that were not only sad and not in the spirit of Islam, but were downright insulting.

The first thing I saw when I picked up the weekend paper was the headline "Ummah mourns tragedy," this reminded me of the terrible accident at haj and I was eager to read the details... then, as I opened up the paper I saw above that article two large photos of Madonna dressed in only a pointy brassiere, in one photo, and in the other she was only wearing an Italy World Cup jersey. These pictures took up the same size space as the haj photo, and they occupied a more prominent place. On top of that there wasn't even any story about her to warrant the printing of such pictures, (if there is ever any warrant for such pictures).

The other thing I want to comment on also appeared in the same paper. It was a report about the "Red and Black Night" at the Kuwait Regency Palace, sponsored by the "Weekend Club." In the first paragraph of the article it notes that this "celebration" took place on the first day of Eid Al Adha, implying it was some sort of Islamic function. It's obvious that the organisation that sponsored this soiree is not a Muslim one, so why are they celebrating Eid? Of course the celebratory spirit of participation on Eid would have been a nice gesture, but then I read about how they celebrated: an exploitation of women in the form of beauty contest, and, of course, in the spirit of all beauty contests, slave auctions, and butcher sales.

Mia Pozzo, Safat.

Afghan rebels

SIR: I'm writing in reply to a query of Richard Noble (his letter was printed on June 21) regarding my previous letter about the Afghan mujahideen.

First of all, I'd like to make it clear that I did not make any allegations without evidence. The information I gave about the Red Cross and Shelter Now International were only two exam-

ples, and there is more controversial activity than only that going on there.

The particular incident you are asking about, Noble, was eyewitnessed about 7 years ago by an American physician who went over to Afghanistan to help out in a hospital there. This particular doctor was going almost every year to practice medicine in various medical installations in Peshawar and had several different appalling stories to bring home each time.

Now, Noble, you have discovered that these so-called "help" organisations are often under other orders and practices than just helping...

I do not deny that the Red Cross has helped many and is continuing to do so all over the world, but I merely want to make people aware of the particular situation in Afghanistan at that time and how various agencies, either under their own control or under a higher authority, are working, not to help, but to harm.

By the way, Noble, if you'd care to do a little research on your own, there are also several eyewitness reports about some of these various same agencies, and others, in African relief work as well, with their own sort of stories, but that's an entirely different subject.

It is important to note that unlike these Western agencies, who often force people to go against their religion in order to receive aid, the Muslim agencies, on the other hand, help all religious affiliations without forcing or coercing anyone to adopt Islam, as has been the policy of Islam for more than 1,400 years.

Mia Pozzo, Safat.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

E. Europe

Anti-Semitism comes to light

VIENNA, (Reuters): Eastern Europe's surviving Jewish communities, ravaged by the Nazi holocaust and repressed during decades of communism, say anti-Semitism has found a new breeding ground — democracy.

"We supported the glasnost policy in Eastern Europe because there was official anti-Semitism," Czechoslovakia's Jewish Council Secretary Richard Svoboda told Reuters.

"Now we don't have any governmental anti-Semitism but democracy has made it possible for unofficial anti-Semitism to show in full."

Within a few months of the leadership and policy changes which brought democratic reforms to Eastern Europe, Jewish synagogues and monuments in Hungary, Romania, the Soviet Union and Poland have been damaged or daubed with swastikas.

Desecration

"People tell us of desecration, having Stars of David put on their door, having their children harassed in school, and having teachers humiliate their children in class," said Bruce Leimsidor, director of the Vienna-based aid agency Hias which deals with a rising number of Jewish emigrants from Eastern Europe.

In Hungary, Gustav Zoltai, president of Israeli Religious Community of Budapest said his office received dozens of threatening letters and anonymous rude telephone calls, every week and synagogues received regular bomb threats.

Last April a monument to Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews during World War II, was desecrated.

In free elections in Hungary and Poland, campaign posters for a number of Jewish candidates were repeatedly defaced with anti-Semitic graffiti.

"Anti-Semitism existed over the past 40 years, but it was always intangible and invisible," Zoltai said.

"Its manifestations over the course of democratisation have undoubtedly strengthened everywhere."

Penetration

In parts of the Soviet Union, anti-Semitism has penetrated newspapers and places of education.

In Leningrad, home to a large portion of the Soviet Union's two million-strong Jewish community, anti-Semitic articles have been circulated in the press and at underground stations.

Last summer, a director at Leningrad's music conservatory tried to ban Jewish students, provoking resignations among faculty members.

In Romania, reports of anti-Semitic attacks have begun to emerge since last December's uprising that overthrew dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Synagogue furniture and religious objects were smashed in the northwestern town of Drobeta in February. Three months later some 30 graves were dug up in the Transylvanian town of Tigris Mures.

In Poland, the tiny Jewish community that survived the Nazi pogroms protested this month that the country was being gripped by its worst wave of anti-Semitism in years.

In a letter to the Polish government, Jewish leaders accused the country's democratically-elected Parliament and powerful Roman Catholic church of turning a blind eye to the problem.

Jewish community leaders say Jews in East Germany, Bulgaria and the Czech-speaking regions of Czechoslovakia say they have not experienced as many problems as some of their neighbours.

Harassment

But there has been harassment in Slovakia, where officials unveiled a memorial plaque to war criminal Jozef Tiso, blamed for the deportation and death of 58,000 Slovak Jews, including 11,000 children, in gas chambers. The plaque was removed earlier this month after mass protests and government criticism.

According to Leimsidor, the wave of anti-Semitism is due to traditional resentment and unprecedented freedom of speech.

"There are two factors. One is that the lid is off — you can express what you feel," Leimsidor said.

Secondly the economic situation has become increasingly catastrophic in these countries and that has always been linked to rise in anti-Semitism.

For many Jews the only remaining solution is to leave, for Israel or the United States. International Jewish organisations like Hias say they fear the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe will be allowed to die altogether.

"I don't think that the governments are going to risk, for the sake of their Jewish population, antagonising forces which they consider necessary for their own support," Leimsidor said.

"I really don't see very much future for them. Maybe the Czech part of Czechoslovakia, but certainly not in Poland, certainly not in Romania."

"If the economic situation gets better in Hungary then maybe people will be able to come to terms with the situation," he added.

"But if I were living there, I wouldn't stay."

QUOTE ME

"The European states can play an effective and influential role in putting pressure on Israel to stop bloody terrorist operations against the Palestinian people," Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

The North Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo, quoted a spokesman for Pyongyang's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland as saying in a statement.

"We will sit together with them too, if they want to participate in it."

"More than at any other previous moment in recent history, mankind has the prospect of building a new structure of co-operation and brotherhood among nations and peoples. India and the Soviet Union are determined to contribute constructively and vigorously to the attainment of this goal." — A joint statement after Indian Prime Minister visited the Soviet Union.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Expatriate remittances to Jordan increase

AMMAN, Jordan, July 27, (AP): Finance Minister Basal Jandaneh said today remittances from Jordanians working abroad have increased remarkably and are expected to reach \$800 million by year's end.

Jandaneh said the Jordanian economy is recovering rapidly and that local production grew by at least two per cent this year. Remittances of Jordanian expatriates have recently been gaining momentum. This is a very interesting and encouraging development and we hope it will continue.

Jandaneh told a news conference.

He said the level was well above 1989, when expatriate workers sent home \$640 million.

He said the increase was due to growing confidence in the performance of the national economy and the renewed stability of the dinar.

An estimated 275,000 Jordanians work in oil-rich Gulf countries, and officials say their remittances make up two-thirds of the country's reserves.

In 1987 remittances amounted to a little less than one billion dollars, but there was a sharp drop in 1988 when Jordan's heavy debt burden strained the economy.

Foreign currency reserves dwindled to nothing that year and the Jordanian dinar also depreciated by 70 per cent.

Jandaneh said net foreign currency reserves now stand at \$270 million, compared with a deficit of \$150 million registered in April 1989.

He projected net reserves would rise to

\$450 million by the end of this year.

They now stand at \$650 million compared to \$445 million in December 1989, and \$63 million in May 1989, he said.

Gross reserves should reach \$800 million by the end of this year if the Arahaid we receive is not less than \$500 million, Jandaneh said.

Jordan hopes to sign an agreement with commercial banks by the end of August under which it would slash some of its \$8

billion foreign debt by buying it back at a 30 per cent discount.

Finance Minister Basal Jandaneh told a news conference details of the debt buy-back were the main sticking point in talks with about 90 banks in the London Club on rescheduling some \$575 million in principal due between January 1989 and mid-1991.

He said the London Club's six-bank steering committee would meet on August 1 to discuss the buy-back plan and he hoped this would lead to conclusion of the deal by

August 31.

"We have made a formal proposal in writing to them and we are optimistic that they will react to it in a positive manner and we can agree on this outstanding issue since the other issues that remain are of a very minor nature," Jandaneh said.

The finance minister said Jordan planned to back its debt on the secondary market at a discount of 70 cents to the dollar, using loans from the World Bank or other international agencies.

Trade talks lagging behind

GENEVA, July 27, (Reuters): World trading nations are beginning to worry that deep disagreements and a tight calendar may keep them from finishing the most ambitious round of trade talks in history.

After four days of fruitless talks this week, the head of the 96-member GATT global trade body told negotiators to stop playing "hide-and-seek" and get down to serious work.

But, with only 18 weeks left before a December deadline, delegates are wondering openly if they will be able to meet the far-reaching goals they set for themselves when they launched the Uruguay Round with fanfare almost four years ago.

"There is one danger — discouragement — because of the amount of work which has still to be done and because, we have to admit it, we are behind schedule," chief European Community negotiator Hugo Paemen said after the latest session of talks ended on Thursday.

"We have to be pessimistic in our heads, but optimistic in our hearts," he said.

At stake in the Uruguay Round, the eighth round of world trade talks since the GATT was created in 1948, is the future of the three-trillion-dollar global trading system.

Trade ministers from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade launched the round in Uruguay in September 1986, saying border barriers to goods and unfair subsidies were stifling world commerce.

Beefing Earlier trade rounds had concentrated on lowering tariffs on manufactured goods and beefing up the GATT's powers.

But the trade body was given little authority to police farm policies. It was also blamed for surplus stocks and low prices, and no rules were written to cover burgeoning trade in services, such as banking, telecommunications and travel — worth about \$600 billion a year.

Trading nations also decided it was time to ease restrictions on textile trade, of crucial importance to poor countries, and write rules against piracy of intellectual property like copyrights and trademarks, a goal of industrialised countries.

The first clear sign the round was in trouble came at a mid-term review in December 1988, in Montreal. The talks came to a standstill when the United States and the EC failed to narrow gaping differences over agricultural reform.

Washington has sought an end to farm subsidies, while the EC, with five times as many farmers, has resisted cuts.

The two sides papered over their disagreement in April of last year, only to have the row flare up again this year. The dispute dominated the month's summit meeting of the heads of the seven largest industrialised countries, who called for a ceasefire in agriculture.

The goodwill at the Houston summit spilled over to this week's meeting, and Washington and Brussels quickly endorsed a common reform plan outlining potential cuts in farm spending.

But, in an unexpected turn of events, a decision by US and EC delegates to put off further negotiations on agriculture until late August had a chilling effect in other areas.

The absence of serious bargaining in Geneva incensed delegates from developing countries and smaller European states, who were looking for concrete steps.

Lodging a formal complaint on behalf of developing countries, head Brazilian negotiator Rubens Ricupero blamed the rich countries for sidestepping the issues and warned the GATT steering committee that the round was in trouble.

US and EC officials dismissed Ricupero's charges, saying developing countries were posturing.

Officials agreed that simmering ill will, slow progress and the fast-approaching December deadline have contributed to what one delegate called a sense of panic.

Worried by the lack of progress, GATT director-general Arthur Dunkel announced strict negotiating deadlines. Even as he did so, US and EC delegates were haggling over the translation of three words in the farm reform proposal.

Head US negotiator Julius Katz warned delegates that the US Congress would not accept a watered down agreement.

Free aid dismissed

Soviets face hard currency shortage

MOSCOW, July 27, (AP): The Soviet Union, hard pressed for convertible currency with which to buy Western goods and technology, appears to be selling off some of its vast wealth of raw materials.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev said Thursday his country does not intend to take aid "free of charge," but his prime minister has acknowledged the Soviet Union is in "a most difficult hard-currency situation."

The Soviet rouble is not traded on world money markets, making it difficult for the country to obtain Western products that are much in

demand at home, where consumer goods are scarce and generally of poor quality.

Recent Kremlin decisions indicate the government is digging into its stores of raw materials for sale abroad or redirecting them for domestic use, as well as getting ready to cut back on its foreign aid to allies.

Although the West German government has guaranteed \$3.1 billion in bank loans to Moscow, European Community leaders refused to endorse an immediate \$15 billion aid programme. At their Houston meeting, the leaders of the world's seven largest capitalist countries this month refused to endorse a comprehensive aid programme.

Algeria proposes tax hike

ALGIERS, July 27, (Reuters):

Algerian deputies elected on Thursday to government plans to raise taxes on tobacco and fuel, the official news agency APS said.

Economy Minister Ghazi Hidouci presented a supplementary budget for 1990 to the national assembly designed to slash the deficit from 3.5 to two billion dinars (411 million dollars) to 232 million dollars.

APS said members of the assembly were highly critical of the proposals which they said penalised the public and called instead for cuts in "ostentatious" government spending.

The government hopes to raise an extra 400 million dinars (47 million dollars) by increasing taxes on tobacco plus 1.6 billion dinars (188 million dollars) with higher taxes on petrol and diesel.

APS said the new budget would be put to the vote on Monday but despite the criticism "it seems it will not be changed much considering the amount of time allowed for discussion" and the "desire for the final vote".

The government also proposes to raise the prices of building materials by between 12 and 19 per cent and domestic appliances by 12 per cent to finance low-cost housing and employment for young people.

A new annual tax on machinery used in the building industry is designed to encourage the use of manual labour. It is also planned to introduce a "solidarity tax" on real estate transactions.

De Beers-Moscow sign diamond deal

Dealer tightens grip

LONDON, July 27, (AP): De

Beers tightened its grip on the global diamond market Wednesday with an exclusive five-year deal to sell the Soviet Union's rough diamond output, which could amount to a total of more than 5 billion dollars.

The financially strained Soviet Union, among the world's highest gem diamond producers, reached the deal with De Beers because it wanted to sell a huge stockpile of diamonds without disrupting the stable diamond market, De Beers said.

The Soviet Union had refused to deal directly with the South African company because of apartheid, but now is willing to openly do business with De Beers' new Swiss arm, De Beers Centenary AG.

"It certainly made it easier, yes," De Beers spokesman Roger van Eeghen said.

South Africa-based De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd. established the publicly-held Swiss company in May to head up the non-South African businesses of the De Beers company, which is controlled by the wealthy Oppenheimer family of South

Africa.

De Beers Centenary said in a statement released in Lucerne, Switzerland, and made available in London that it reached the agreement with Glavalmazoloto of the USSR for the exclusive export and sale of the Soviet Union's diamond production.

Glavalmazoloto is the main administration for precious metals and diamonds under the Soviet Union's council of ministers, De Beers said.

It said its Luxembourg-based subsidiary, Centenary Holdings SA, has agreed to make a secured advance of 1 billion dollars to Glavalmazoloto against future diamond deliveries. Repayment would be made over five years beginning in November, it said.

The Soviet diamond stockpile will be held at De Beers' London-based marketing arm, the central selling organisation, as collateral for the 1-billion-dollar advance, De Beers said.

The organisation, a 57-year-old cartel, has the financial resources to hold large stocks of diamonds, which is how it keeps the market stable.

Gorbachev said Thursday after meeting with Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti that the Soviet Union is not seeking a "handout" from the West. He told the Communist Party congress earlier this month that as far as such aid is concerned, "we act not as beggars but as partners and we are not going to take anything free of charge."

Yet the Soviet Union clearly needs immediate cash infusions to avoid further economic decline.

"We are at present in the most difficult hard-currency situation," Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov said in a speech last week as he outlined a new plan to rescue the economy.

The Soviet Union's hard currency balance of payments deficit in the first half of 1990 topped 6.4 billion roubles (\$1.01 billion), 150 per cent more than the same time last year, official figures showed on Friday.

A report from the Soviet statistics agency Goskomstat, outlined in the latest issue of the weekly Kommersant, said industrial output also faltered and inflation soared during the six-month period.

The economic decline, which has continued for many months, has not become a consistent trend, the newspaper said.

In another move to soak up a domestic supply of hard currency, the government on Tuesday announced it was setting up a network of stores where Soviet enterprises and organisations, as well as individual citizens, will be able to buy imported and high-quality domestic goods for foreign currency.

It also said Soviet citizens may spend their foreign cash in the Soviet Union beginning Aug 1 without having to disclose where they got the money.

Deputy Prime Minister Stepan Sitarin, head of the government's economic commission, said individual Soviets had 200 million roubles (\$324 million) in foreign currency they had legally acquired but were unable to spend in the Soviet Union, except at a few special shops for foreigners that have a limited amount of goods.

Moscow also is changing its policies regarding raw materials for fellow socialist countries.

The Soviet Union's big budget deficit has been slashed in the first half of 1990 but further improvement depends on new reform measures due to go before parliament, according to Finance Minister Valentin Pavlov.

Pavlov was quoted by the official labour union newspaper Trud on Wednesday as saying the deficit was 24 billion roubles (\$4 billion) for the first six months of 1990.

Loan burden eased in 1989

BASEL, Switzerland, July 27, (Reuters): The sum owed by the world's most indebted nations fell slightly in the second half of last year, but Eastern Europe's struggling economies soaked up more foreign capital, figures published on Friday showed.

The cumulative debt of all developing countries swelled 12.3 billion dollars to 729.9 billion in the period under review, according to the data compiled jointly by the Basel-based Bank for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Two key categories of foreign debt in 15 heavily indebted countries shrank by 5.5 billion dollars in the second half of 1989 to stand at 299.9 billion after falling 14.3 billion dollars in the first half.

These so-called "Baker countries" — a name coined as a result of a debt reduction plan devised by James Baker, former treasury secretary and now secretary of state in the US administration — have had to face Western banks less willing to extend new loans. As a result, their net debt was declined.



Tokyo share traders, waving hand signals and yelling, crowd the trading floor of the Tokyo Stock Exchange as shares fell 67.66 yen to 3,127.13 off earlier lows in a cautious market on July 24 after a steep drop in overnight in New York. (Reuters wirephoto)

Same hours for all

BRUSSELS, July 27, (AP): Workers

throughout the European Economic Community should all work the same number of hours and days, the trade union movement has demanded.

Vauno Papandreu, EEC commissioner for social affairs, said the plans were aimed at cutting down accidents and ill health that result from overlong working hours and too much shift work.

The measures would include: cutting workers a maximum of 11 hours continuous rest in every 24 hours and ensuring one rest day for every seven-day period.

Forbidding night workers from doing overtime and working more than eight hours in 24 hours.

Ensuring that companies take account of the demanding nature of shift and night work when setting up rest breaks.

Ensuring that night workers get regular health checks and can move to day shifts if they request it.

Ensuring that people in industries that can risk derogations from this proposal (such as airline pilots, farm workers, oil rig workers) do not work for longer than six months at a time under conditions that breach the rules.

Ms Papandreu said EEC governments could either pass legislation to make such work hours mandatory in their country or could ensure that such regulations were reached voluntarily through collective bargaining by unions and management.

She said every country would have to make some modifications to its current labour laws.

Shares lose more ground in London

Bombay index soars

LONDON, July 27, (Agencies): Shares on London's international stock exchange lost further ground today as a weaker start on Wall Street worsened an already bearish mood, as the week's bad news depressed the market, analysts said.

The Financial Times Stock Exchange 100-share index reached 2,317.71 points at 4 pm, down 73 points from the previous day's close of 2,390.71 points, down 8.6 points.

The day started poorly, with the FTSE 100 index opening seven points down due to the continued fallout from Thursday's bad results and profit downgradings.

The market never really recovered throughout the day and a poor start on Wall Street, which was 3 points ahead shortly after the open, did not help share prices higher.

Investors both sides of the Atlantic were disenchanted with Imperial Chemical Industries, who Thursday announced an 18 per cent drop in half-year profits. ICI shares fell 1p to 102p, adding to the fall Thursday.

In New York, the stock market headed lower today, confronted with new evidence of sluggish business conditions.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks dropped 7.18 to 2,913.61 at 10.30 am (14.30 GMT) in the first hour of trading.

Losers held a tight edge on gainers in the early rally of New York Stock Exchange-listed issues, with 411 up, 471 down and 504 unchanged.

Volume on the NYSE came to 22.40 million shares in the first half hour on Wall Street.

In Tokyo, the US dollar firmed against the Japanese yen today, while share prices on the Tokyo Stock

Exchange declined for the sixth straight trading day.

The dollar closed the week at 150.75 yen, up 0.64 from Thursday's 150.11-yen finish. It opened at 150.40 yen and ranged between 150.32 yen and 150.80 yen.

The US currency has kept an upward trend in the last seven trading days, gaining a total of 3.50 yen from the closing of 147.25 yen on July 18.

Spot transactions today totalled \$9,509 billion, down from Thursday's \$10,112 billion.

The benchmark Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues fell 506.27 points, or 1.61 per cent, to 30,863.48. The index had shed 331.52 points on Thursday.

It was the lowest closing since May 2, when the index finished at 30,172.64.

In Sydney, the Australian market followed the gyrations on Tokyo's Nikkei index. The All Ordinaries fell 12.9 to 1,578.0.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng index fell quickly in the morning but coded 2.21 higher at 1,485.80.

In Singapore, bargain-hunting alternated with profit-taking. The Straits Times index rose 7.41 to 1,565.49.

In Bombay, the Bombay Stock Exchange index soared for the third day running. The share index ended up 25.03 points to 1,033.15 and hit a record 1,036.22 just before the close.

In Frankfurt, West German shares slipped in dull trade dominated by pre-weekend position squaring. The 30-share DAX index finished 13.08 points lower at 1,919.81.

In Zurich, Swiss shares closed almost one per cent lower in thin volume.

Illegal copying rampant

Asian software laws lax

SINGAPORE, July 27, (Reuters): Walk into almost any computer shop in Asia and chances are that software can be found on sale at a fraction of list price.

With copyright laws nonexistent in some Asian countries and lax enforcement in others, illegal software copying is rampant, industry sources say.

"Nobody I know has legitimate software," a computer engineer in Singapore said. "They would be stupid to pay so much for it."

Expensive programmes are routinely given free to computer buyers in Asia, while computer shops from Karachi to Kuala Lumpur will run off copies of diskettes for a few dollars each.

US pressure and Asian realisation of the need to create and protect domestic industries have prompted some countries to enact tougher penalties on software pirates. But with enforcement still lax, piracy remains a thriving business, fuelled by strong demand, experts say. In Asia illegal copying of software is often seen more as a right than a crime.

"Many people still consider software copying as a legitimate way to cut costs and share data," said Yutaka Kubota of Japan's Software Legal Protection Organisation.

Every software package sold legally multiplies tenfold through illegal copying, the Japan Computer Software Association estimates.

At least Japan has a software copyright law — in China and Pakistan, software piracy is not a crime.

"Piracy is very common in Pakistan," Amer Khan, a computer salesman in Karachi said. "Almost all software is pirated here." The cost? Just 20 rupees (90 US cents) apiece, including floppy diskettes, he said.

While other Asian countries have in recent years tightened up copyright laws, many are content to let manufacturers lead the charge against pirates.

Under South Korea's 1987 Computer Programme Protection Act for example, cracking down on violators is only possible when police receive a report.

"We don't do raids or seizures unless there is a complaint... It seems that foreign manufacturers are satisfied

with the law as it is," a South Korean Science and Technology Ministry official said.

Even when caught, violators pay minimal fines, ranging from \$70 to \$280 on average, a US businessman in Seoul said.

"Enforcing anti-piracy laws has never been a priority with local police," said Hsieh Shu-i, a lawyer representing a group of US software producers in Taiwan.

Only 24 cases of computer piracy were investigated in 1989 and 20 in 1988, official Taiwan figures show.

But software developers are striking back. The Business Software Alliance, a group of US software producers, has brought legal action against firms in Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan, representatives of the group said.

"We have closed down three international mail order (software) companies," said Alban Kang, a lawyer representing the BSA in Singapore. "One even had orders from a priest in England."

The BSA has also turned its attention to users of pirate software, filing lawsuits against companies that copy software for in-house use.


Illegal in-house copying of legally bought software accounts for at least three-quarters of losses from piracy, BSA president Douglas Phillips said in Singapore.

The BSA move has prompted multinational and large companies in the region to go on software shopping sprees as they dump illegal copies, industry sources said.

"BSA is going to take further action against dealers who give away software," Kang said.

Continuing US pressure, and the threat of retaliation under a punitive tariff mechanism in a US trade bill, the Super 301 clause, should also encourage governments to get tougher with software pirates, analysts say. Pressure will also mount as local software companies emerge, they added.

"(Piracy) is a serious problem in India. It is affecting the growth of the local industry because pirated versions are cheaper than the licensed ones," said Rajesh Agarwal, manager of an Indian computer company.



CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT

ANNOUNCEMENT

For Subscription in Issue No. (131) for Treasury Bills
Authorised by Decree Law No. (50) of 1987

CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance of the State of Kuwait, hereby announces the offering of **TREASURY BEARER BILLS** in Kuwaiti Dinar for **SUBSCRIPTION** in compliance with the following Rules and Regulations:

- AMOUNT OF ISSUE:**
The Amount of this Issue is KD 125 million distributed over THREE Denominations as follows:
KD 50 000, KD 250 000, KD 500 000
- ISSUE DATE:** Wednesday 1 / 8 / 1990
- DUE DATE:** Wednesday 31 / 10 / 1990
- OFFERING PERIOD:**
From: Saturday 28 / 7 / 1990
To: Tuesday 31 / 7 / 1990
- ALLOTMENT:** Wednesday 1 / 8 / 1990
- DELIVERY OF BILLS:**
After one week following the date of submitting the application.
- The Provisions of this Issue shall be subject to the Rules and Conditions stipulated in the Announcement for Subscription in Issue No. (1) for Treasury Bills, published in the Local Newspapers of Saturday, November 21, 1987 and in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Youn) No. 1746 issued Sunday, November 22, 1987.

BUSINESS

3 high-tech projects - futuristic city, spaceport, fast train - launched

Australia full-speed ahead into the 21st century

SYDNEY, July 27. (AP) A commercial spaceport, a "city of the future" and a 220mph (350-kph) train are on the drawing board aimed at taking Australia full-speed ahead into the 21st century.

Environmental, social and financial hurdles remain to be overcome. But the projects, expected to cost a total of about 30 billion dollars (\$24 billion), appear ready to proceed.

The Cape York Spaceport hopes to launch US-made satellites from Soviet rockets to take advantage of the rapidly growing commercial market.

The "city of the future," known by the unwieldy name of multifunction polis aspires to create a high-tech centre similar to California Silicon Valley.

The very fast train would zip passengers the 650 miles (1,000 kilometre), from Sydney to Melbourne.

Australia's two largest cities, in as little as three hours.

Federal and state governments are pursuing a politically fail-safe policy for the three high-tech projects by letting private enterprise take most of the economic risk.

The proposed spaceport, in northern Queensland state, could cost about 350 million dollars (\$290 million).

Officials are hoping for US government approval, believed imminent, for the facility, which would use Soviet Zenit rockets to launch American built satellites.

The Cape York Space Agency, owned by Australia's Essington Ltd, has been waiting nearly six months for Washington to decide whether to allow

Essington's US partner, United Technologies Corp, to participate.

Approval would give Australian officials the go-ahead to sign a series of agreements with the Soviet space agency Glavkosmos to supply 370 million dollars (\$308 million) worth of rockets and technology over the next 10 years.

"It's all systems go, subject to Aboriginal and environmental issues being satisfactorily addressed," said Stephen Williams, general manager of the Cape York Agency.

But the Aboriginal issue, which threatens a clash between the stone age and the space age, could impede an early startup of the spaceport on the remote Cape York peninsula.

The 80,000-acre (200,000-hectare) site at Temple Bay, 120 miles (200 kilometres) from the tip of the peninsula, is the traditional home of the Wuthathi and Kuku'au people and the site of the "Stingray Dreaming."

Original legend says the pure white silica sand dunes were created when the stingray, a marine invertebrate, came to that area flipped over and exposed its white underbelly.

Aborigines believe they will become sick and die if their "dreamplace" is damaged.

The federal and Queensland state governments have approved the project in principle, although declining to commit any money to the spaceport. They have promised to consider Aboriginal rights and environmental concerns.

Scientists and the Australian space office say the spaceport, could generate 600 million dollars (\$500 million) in annual income, with nearly a third staying in Australia.

"Satellites are essential for environmental research, mining and exploration, financial services and sea safety," said Graham Harris director of the office of Space Science and Applications in the federal capital, Canberra.

"At the moment, we (Australia) are almost totally dependent on overseas services," he said. "We can't afford not to be involved."

While the spaceport project involves Soviet and American rockets and satellites the Australians

have sought the assistance of Japan, one of its most visible and criticised trade partners, for the "city of the future."

Japan's large-scale investments in Australia, from skyscrapers to gold coast golf courses, have raised the ire of politicians and the public who feel the Japanese are buying up too much of the country.

When the Australian Government began looking for suitable partners for the futuristic city, a consortium of Japanese companies bid for the project that could cost 18 billion dollars (\$15 billion) over the next 25 years.

The city would revolve around three to five high-tech industries and serve as home to 150,000 to 200,000 people.

UK National Power to lay off workers

\$1.1b loss reported

LONDON, July 27. (AP) National Power Plc, the larger of the two British electricity generating companies getting ready for privatisation, yesterday posted a 605 million-pound (\$1.1 billion) loss and said it was cutting 5,000 jobs over the next five years.

The state-owned company said it expected the job cuts to be achieved through natural wastage and voluntary layoffs. It currently employs about 6,000 people, following 800 job cuts earlier this year.

The results for the year ended March 31 were presented as if National Power had been an autonomous business throughout the year.

National Power along with the smaller Powergen, were the two generating companies officially formed in March from the break-up of the Central

Electricity Generating Board.

Their shares were to be offered to the public next year.

But earlier this week, the government said it has held discussions with British conglomerate Hanson Plc that might lead to the private sale of Powergen, which produces 18,700 megawatts of electricity annually.

Energy Secretary John Gummer said that if a serious takeover proposal also was made for National Power, which produces 29,700 megawatts annually, he would have to examine that as well.

If sold to the public, National Power could raise between 2 billion pounds to 2.5 billion pounds, and Powergen could raise £1 billion analysts say.

Painting helps pay off debt

ZURICH, July 27. (Reuters) Swiss investors who lost out when Australian tycoon Alan Bond's business empire crumbled have cashed in on his sale of one of the world's most valuable paintings by having authorities here seize it in transit.

Jules Keller, capital markets chief of Geneva Bank S.G. Warburg, Sodite SA, said yesterday his bank snapped a lien on Van Gogh's "Irises" in January while it was being shipped through Switzerland.

Sodite had acted as lead manager for a series of corporate notes issued in Switzerland by a company controlled by Bond and guaranteed by his family's holding company.

But when Bond's brewing, media and property empire collapsed earlier this year, his companies were unable to pay off the notes.

Bond had sold "Irises" — which set a world record when he bought it for \$53.9 million in 1987 — to the J. Paul Getty Museum near Los Angeles for an undisclosed price.

After tough bargaining, Sodite forced a third company controlled by Bond to offer to buy back the notes at 65 per cent of their face value. Practically all the noteholders took up the offer, and will be paid on August 10, Keller said.

ICI reports fall in profits

Very disappointing

LONDON, July 27. (Reuters) Britain's largest industrial company, Imperial Chemical Industries Plc, yesterday announced a 20.7 per cent fall in pre-tax profits for the first half of 1990 and the planned sale of its British fertiliser business.

Pre-tax profit was below analysts' forecasts, dropping from £925 million (\$1.67 billion) in the first six months of 1989 to £733 million (\$1.33 billion) for the half-year ending June 30, 1990.

ICI chairman Sir Denis Henderson said the results reflected increasingly difficult conditions in most world-markets, especially in Britain and the United States.

"These are very bad figures, ranging from slightly disappointing to very disappointing," said Kleinwort Benson chemicals analyst Tony Cox.

Analysts had forecast a pre-tax profit of £800 million (\$1.45 billion) to £825 million (\$1.49 billion) for the world's fourth-largest chemicals company.

Turnover increased from £6.64 billion (\$12.03 billion) to £6.82 billion (\$12.34 billion).

At a news conference, Henderson

said inflation in Britain, currently 9.8 per cent, had not fallen as the group had hoped at the beginning of the year and growth looked sluggish for at least the next 12 months.

ICI said the fertiliser business, which posted first-half trading profits of £22 million (\$3.16 million) as opposed to £15 million (\$27.2 million) a year earlier, was suffering from intense competitive pressures arising from excess capacity.

The company also announced it had agreed to sell the British fertiliser business to Kemira Oy of Finland. The deal, which ICI said should be concluded by year-end, was valued at less than two per cent of its group net assets.

ICI's fertiliser plants at Billingham in northeast England were not included in the agreement and the company said they would be closed with the loss of 640 jobs.

Trading profits from industrial products — general chemicals, petrochemicals, plastics and fibres — were more than halved, from £456 million (\$825.4 million) to £216 million (\$391 million) in the first half of the year.

Recession fears voiced

1991 US budget proposes more taxes

WASHINGTON, July 27. (AP) The US economy, continuing to skirt along the edges of a recession, posted weak growth at an annual rate of just 1.2 per cent from April through June, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said that the gross national product, the country's total output of goods and services, was propped up entirely in the second quarter by a big buildup in business inventories.

Other major components of the economy, from consumer spending to business investment and housing construction, suffered declines during the quarter.

The 1.2 per cent GNP increase in the second quarter followed a revised 1.7 per cent recession begins.

In one encouraging sign, inflation slowed markedly in the second quarter, with a GNP price measure dropping to an annual rate of increase of 3.9 per cent, down from a 6.6 per cent rate in the first three months of the year. One-half of the improvement came from a slowing in food prices.

The administration of President George Bush is counting on the Federal Reserve — the nation's central bank — to come to the economy's rescue by switching its attention from fighting inflation to worrying more about keeping the recovery alive by lowering interest rates.

In addition to reporting on weak economic growth in the just completed second quarter, the government sharply revised down its estimates of past growth.

It reduced the growth estimate for every quarter in 1989 and trimmed growth for the entire year to an annual rate of 2.5 per cent, down from an earlier forecast of 3 per cent.

The revision meant that the US economy in 1989 grew at its slowest pace since its actual decline of 2.5 per cent in the recession year of 1985.

The government blamed the big downward revisions on mistakes that overestimated wages and salaries in 1989 by \$57.9 billion.

Faced with the weaker growth in downward revisions in past growth estimates, the Bush administration was forced to lower its own economic projections for this year and dramatically boost its estimate of the federal budget deficit for 1991.

The administration is now projecting the economy will grow at an annual rate of 2 per cent this year, but to meet even this lowered expectation will require growth in the second half to average 2.9 per cent, a pace far higher than most private economists believe is possible.

Bush and congressional leaders held their third consecutive morning meeting to discuss the slow-moving, 11-week-old negotiations Thursday, but broke no new ground. Fiscal 1991 begins in just more than two months, on Oct. 1, and Congress plans to begin a month-long recess after next week.

White House officials took a new budget proposal to Capitol Hill Wednesday evening and got the backing of most Republican leaders involved in the talks.

The package consists of slightly more than \$50 billion in savings, split roughly evenly between new taxes and spending cuts. According to Packwood, an Oregon Republican. The 1991 deficit is expected to reach at least \$169 billion unless action is taken. More than enough to trigger huge spending cuts under the Gramm-Rudman law.

The proposal includes higher excise taxes on alcohol, but otherwise resembles the taxes Bush proposed in the budget he released in January. Packwood told reporters Thursday.

The American public has turned sharply pessimistic about the future of the economy, according to a Washington Post/ABC news poll Thursday.



Ramon Gonzalez Vergara, former Cuban deputy secretary of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon) based in Moscow, speaks during a press conference on July 25, 1990, said Cuban economy might collapse in a period of two years. (Reuters wirephoto)

America's role flagging

Japan out-invests US: study

WASHINGTON, July 27. (Reuters) Japan has overtaken the United States to become the world's biggest spender on new factories and industrial equipment, according to a new study on America's flagging performance in the global economy.

Despite an economy less than half the size of that of its American economic rival, Japan spent 36 billion dollars more on capital investment in 1989 than the United States: \$549 billion vs \$513 billion.

"This marks the first time that any country has out-invested the United States in plant and equipment in absolute terms since World War Two," the study said.

The figures were compiled by the Washington-based Council of Competitiveness, a group of 150 academics, labour union officials and executives of companies that span the business spectrum and range from Ford and Chrysler to IBM, Boeing and the New York Stock Exchange.

For the past three years, the council has published a "Competitiveness Index" which compares US economic performance with the other countries in the Group of Seven richest industrial nations — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Britain.

The council's data show that the United States, once the world's economic giant, is slipping in four areas used to gauge competitiveness — investment, productivity, trade and standard of living.

Investment is the base from which our current level of productivity, trade and standard of living is derived and it gives us the best clue to the nation's future competitive position," the latest report said.

By that measure, the future appears to be bleak. According to the study, US investment in plant and equipment has consistently fallen below the average of the other Group of Seven countries over the past two decades.

In 1989, US capital investment accounted for 12.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), compared with an average of 17.3 per cent in the other countries.

While the United States had slightly increased its investment in non-military research and development since 1972, the base year for the council's index, some of its competitors increased spending on R&D

much more rapidly.

Measured as a percentage of GDP, both Germany and Japan now spend roughly 50 per cent more on non-military research and development than the United States. Even including military research, Japan spends as much as the United States, the study found.

In the one area where the United States invests considerably more than its Group of Seven competitors — education — money has failed to buy better performance, according to the Competitiveness Index.

The most recent data available show the US spending 4.5 per cent of its GDP on education, ahead of Japan's 3.5 per cent. Germany's 3.2 per cent and the other countries' average of around three per cent.

"In the one area where we do not have an investment shortfall... we have a performance gap," the study said. "American students perform poorly on international standardised math and science tests."

"High drop-out rates, inadequately prepared graduates, and an ever-increasing shortage of Americans trained in science will have severe ramifications for the future of American industry."

While the United States still holds a slight lead in manufacturing productivity, West Germany and Japan are closing in fast and the rest of the Group of Seven countries are catching up.

The council's study offers no explanations or remedies for the decline in America's standing but its figure on output per employee in the manufacturing industry spotlights the relentless advance of US competitors.

In 1972, the study says, an American production worker produced \$25,800 worth of goods compared with \$14,000 for the other Group of Seven countries. By 1987, the US figure had increased to \$38,800, only marginally more than Japan's \$36,900 and West Germany's \$35,500.

West Germany now holds the top spot on the Standard of Living index, defined as GDP per capita, with \$15,250 (in 1988 dollars) compared with \$14,180 for the United States.

Trial to end soon

Guinness takeover deal

LONDON, July 27. (Reuters) After three years of investigations and six months of testimony, a marathon court drama featuring allegations of greed, arrogance and lust for power in the top echelons of British finance is nearing its end.

In a London courtroom where petty theft cases were once the order of the day, four eminent businessmen stand accused of being part of a multi-million-pound scheme to help Anglo-Irish brewing giant Guinness Plc win a 1986 takeover battle.

Prosecutors rested their case in mid-July and the trial is expected to wind up in a matter of weeks.

In terms of its length and cost, its right to the media-bestowed title of Britain's "Financial Trial of the Century" is not in doubt because of its high-profile defendants, including a former Guinness chairman, and the string of charges being heard.

The proceedings at London's Southwark Crown Court across the Thames River from the City of London business district began in February and are expected to have cost as much as £20 million (\$36 million) by the time they close.

The trial was the culmination of a three-year government investigation into the £2.7 billion (\$4.9 billion) takeover deal which gave Guinness control of drinks group Distillers Co. Plc after a fierce bidding battle with British supermarket chain Argyl Group Plc.

A second trial involving lesser figures accused of being implicated in the affair is due to open later this year but is expected to be a minor sequel to the current blockbuster.

A speedy conclusion to the main trial, which has suffered interruptions and breaks for illness of jury members and the chief defendant, will probably come as a relief to court officials and reporters forced to delve into the intricacies of company law on a daily basis.

In the early days journalists jostled for space in court and newspapers devoted full-page coverage to the claims of secretly shredded office diaries, deals made over expensive dinners, and huge pay-offs for illicit services to further the Guinness bid.

Britain has had a series of insider dealing and financial fraud cases in recent years but this is the first to involve a world-famous company and several top financiers.

The end came in sight unexpectedly when three of the defendants announced they would not go into the witness box.

The trial went into the summation stage on July 25 after a week's adjournment, which Justice Denis Henry said lawyers needed to compress the piles of evidence into closing speeches.

The key figure in the case is former Guinness chairman Ernest Saunders.

Saunders, formerly president of Nestle Nutrition S.A. and a member of the world-wide management committee of the Swiss-based parent food giant Nestle S.A., had a reputation as a corporate trouble-shooter when he joined Guinness in 1981 — but the career move turned decidedly sour.

He was sacked when the scandal broke and his marriage broke down under the strain. He has been portrayed in testimony as a ruthless deal maker but appeared in the witness box a sad and broken man.

Saunders' son James, a lawyer, has written a book about the case entitled "Nightmare" and has been negotiating film rights with a British production company.

Saunders and co-defendants Gerald Ronson, head of the British-based Heron International property and motor group, millionaire British financier Sir Jack Lyons, and London stockbroker Anthony Parnes, have all pleaded innocent.

Texas oilman Boone Pickens challenges Toyota

TOKYO, July 27. (UPI) Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens, who has been shut out of a Japanese auto-parts firm despite being its largest stockholder, said he is switching tactics and will wage his fight against Toyota Motor Corp., which he said is the smaller company's real master.

"I don't think anybody is going to argue with me that Toyota is controlling Koito (manufacturing company, the auto-parts maker)," Pickens said in a telephone interview from his office in Dallas, Texas.

"We might as well go to the top of the organisation."

Toyota, Japan's largest automaker, owns 19 per cent of Koito, the country's largest auto-parts manufacturer. Pickens owns 26 per cent, the largest of any single shareholder, but has been denied a seat on the board.

"They (Toyota) are able to control Koito, so they, with a 19 per cent interest, get a 100 per cent benefit," Pickens said.

Toyota refused to comment on Pickens' latest charges.

"Our company's position from the beginning of the dispute between Pickens and Koito has been that we will not intervene," said Toyota spokesman Andrew Pfeifferberger.

Despite Pickens' holdings, Koito's management has denied his request for four seats on the board and access to company records, charging that he is merely seeking to green-mail them.

Big Detroit car companies report lower earnings

DETROIT, July 27. (Reuters) America's two biggest car companies, General Motors and Ford, reported sharply lower second-quarter earnings on Thursday, but the results were a bit better than expected.

General Motors Corp. reported a 38 per cent drop in earnings for the second quarter, slightly better than Wall Street expected.

The No. 1 carmaker's profit was \$900.1 million, or \$1.32 a share, down steeply from the \$1.45 billion or \$2.23 a share of last year.

But the profit was up from the \$710 million reported in the first quarter.

GM revenue edged upward to \$33.9 billion from \$33.5 billion, though GM said it managed less of a profit on the higher sales total due to costly incentives needed because of slack demand.

GM stock was down 12.5 cents at \$47.50 in morning trading.

Ford Motor Co., the No. 2 US carmaker, reported a 45 per cent drop in profits for the

quarter, attributing the weaker earnings to lower vehicle production, high buyer incentives and the costs of developing new products.

Ford said it earned \$770.7 million in the quarter, or \$1.67 a share, against \$1.41 billion, or \$3 per share in the year-ago period.

World-wide sales and revenues were \$26.9 billion an increase of \$982 million from the comparable period a year ago.

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs)				Ind Rayon				Nikkei stock average: 30863.48			
July 25, '90.				July 25, '90.				(- 506.27)			
								Volume: 450 mil sh			
								Yen exchange rate: 150.75			
								Name of stock			
								Cl Ch			
ACC	Fr. Close	Open	Close	Indrayon	134	134.50	133	Mitsubishi Corp	1430	-50	
Alcan Chem	920	940	940	Indrayon	337.50	275	286.25	Mitsubishi Estate	1360	-20	
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	J.K. Sing	72	71	76	Mitsubishi H I	900	-20	
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Kin Engg	170	175	180	Mitsui R E	1610	-30	
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Kin Comm	79	82.50	85	Mizuno Corp	1800	-30	
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	KPS Pumpa	200	200	210	Mochida Ph	3880	-70	
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	L & T	94	105	110	Mori Seiki Co	4230	0	
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Lipton	85	89	97	NEC Corp	1890	+40	
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Mis Russel	90	90	92.50	Nikon Corp	1600	-30	
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Mad Coats	150	140	150	Nippon Shin Co	1020	-20	
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Mahindra	95	95	96.25	Nipponeseo	2120	-50	
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Max Share	24	26.50	25.50	Nituko Corp	1460	-40	
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Milford	970	990	1010	Omura Sec	2030	-20	
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Modi	80	80	86	Okuma Mach	1760	-20	
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	MRF Ltd	330	—	—	Oward K Co.	2270	+60	
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Muk Iron	141	149	152	Orix Corp	4980	-60	
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Nat Ori	130	130	130	Pioneer Elec Co	6230	-90	
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Nodl	1360	1370	1480	Renown Look Inc	2500	0	
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Nippon	44	43	45	Sanyo Elec Co	799	-26	
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Orkay	25.50	29	28	Secom Co., Ltd.	6780	-120	
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Qswal Agro	40	40	43	Seintsu Chem	1800	-30	
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Pelco	90	95	90	Shindengen Elec	1310	-50	
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Pfizer	90	95	90	Sony Corp	8730	-70	
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Pondra	267.50	190	200	Sumitomo Elec Ind.	1590	+10	
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Prem Auto	67	69	72	Sumit. Metal Ind.	507	-4	
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Ranbaxy	99	95	100	Takeda Chemical	1660	-30	
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Ray Wool	90	92	94	Tokio Marine & Fire	1160	-110	
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Raxat	240	240	245	Tokyo Elec Power	3920	+20	
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Reliance	97.50	117	123	Tokyo Electron Ltd	4710	-40	
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Sesa Gro	103.50	117.50	108	Toppan Printing	1700	-40	
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Shaw Wall	—	—	—	Toray Ind Inc	750	0	
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Shree Cam	—	—	—	Toshiba Corp	1010	-10	
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Shri Fib	57.50	60	55	Toyota Motor	2200	-20	
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Sinoma	116	118	122	Yaskawa Elec	1000	-20	
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	SKF	1630	1690	1725				
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Spic	66	67	72.50				
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	St Mills	74	73	75				
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Tata Oil	120	127	134				
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Tata Chem	930	1040	1040				
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Tate Pulp	175	178	181				
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Telco	—	—	—				
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Thapgo Agro	134.25	141	142.50				
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Tisco	137.50	158	161.25				
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Vareti	—	—	—				
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Volitas	104	107	113				
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Winco	24.50	32	29				
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Zamil	51	52	53				
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	Zust Agro	70	72.50	70				
Alkerm	86	87.50	90	Compiled by Kwait-India	—	—	—				
Alkerm	250	250	262.50	national Exchange Co.	—	—	—				

Hitachi Credit	1530	0	
Hitachi Koki	2300	-30	
Hitachi Ltd.	1390	-20	
Hitachi Metal	1470	-40	
Honda Motor	1680	0	
toYokado Co	4000	+10	
Kajima Corp	1710	-40	
Kawasaki H I	759	-10	
Kobe Cast Iron	1580	-20	
Kokusai Elec.	5250	+70	
Komatsu Ltd.	1230	-10	
Kyocera Corp	8880	-120	
Marui	3110	-90	
Matsumita Ind	4030	+50	
Mat Electric	2040	-20	
Mazda M C	855	-30	

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Divers harm coral reefs

By Randall Palmer

CUBA divers and discriminate developers are destroying the world's coral reefs, say ecologists at the reef-based World Conservation Union.

The organisation, which is known by the acronym IUCN, is planning a programme to help save the colourful reefs from the destructive hand of man.

"Probably the people that are the most serious threat to the reefs are the divers," said IUCN Marine Programme Coordinator Danny Elder said in Geneva. "Scuba divers are a sort of people who love reefs to death."

Reefs are being smothered or seriously damaged in more than 60 of the 109 countries where they exist.

Reefs, formed by colonies of billions of tiny creatures, can be 6 metres (160) in depth and extend for hundreds of kilometres (miles). They provide not only natural beauty and a highly diverse ecosystem, but also rich fishing grounds and invaluable protection from oncoming ocean waves.

Hundreds of thousands of divers are breaking off small samples and locally harvesting coral to sell to tourists and jewellers are clipping the reefs away.

All the trappings and rubbish that come with divers and other tourists exacerbate the problem.

Seven cruise ships arrived off Grand Cayman Island in the Caribbean in 1973, bearing 971 passengers.

By 1986 there were 316 ships with 270,000 tourists. Another 146,000 people arrived by air.

Ecologists checked the damage from just one ship as it dropped its 4,500 kg (9,900 lb) anchor onto the reef. The liner bobbed to and fro for two days and its 150-metre (500 foot) anchor chain destroyed some 3,000 square metres (3,600 square yards) of reef.

Coral is destroyed further when building blocks and shipping chemicals are hauled out of the reefs. Growing members of hotels on shore spew out sewage which drowns the coral.

The Maldives, isolated in the middle of the Indian Ocean, has an average altitude of only 1.5 metres (five feet), prompting worry that the nation could vanish if the oceans rise as a result of global warming.

An IUCN scientist who recently visited the Maldives told the authorities they had to stop their own destructive practices.

"What he said to them was, 'If you're here in 50 years you'll be lucky, because everything else you're doing is damaging the system at a much faster rate than sea-level will,'" Elder said.

"They're pulling their reefs away which are their very protection," Elder said.

Off the coast of Tanzania a tourist island — now dubbed the Island with No Name — has vanished because the reef was stripped clean and the waves swept over.

East of Taiwan, Japan plans to build an airport on Ishigaki Island which threatens to smother the nearby Shiroko Reef and destroy a unique iridescent blue coral, Elder said.

The IUCN, which groups governments and environmental bodies, will launch a programme to conserve coral at its November meeting in Australia.

It wants to increase public awareness of reefs and the need to save them and the importance of not buying coral necklaces and shells.

Cancer victim flies in the sky

By Judy Byrne

BUBBLY strawberry blonde Sandra Hinds is living the adventurous life of her dreams. She has already made her maiden flight on a glider and now she is packing a whole day with derring-do.

Mother-of-two Sandra has arranged to fly high in a hot air balloon and dangle from a tiny microlight aircraft. Then she will zoom off in a gyrocopter — a cross between a light aircraft and a helicopter with no engine to turn the rotor blade.

After that, 31-year-old Sandra vows she will think of some even more daring exploits.

To Sandra, every second of life is precious. For doctors have told her she should have died last March.

But, instead of sitting moping, Sandra decided to raise money for cancer research by doing all the things that would once have been considered too risky for a mother with young children. Things she had previously only dreamed of doing.

After Sandra learned she was suffering from cancer, she immediately started organising a huge party. The people running the disco for it gave back their £300 fee, so that she could get her merry misadventure rolling.

Sandra, who suffers from a rare form of breast cancer, told me: "I have goals to reach, and that definitely helps. When I have had my fund-raising day I shall look for even bigger projects."

The charity for which I am organising the day — The Imperial Cancer Research Fund — hope that, some of this young and ill doing these things, will make people open their pockets. I'm going to have a good day.

"They are trying to get celebrities involved. So I might be going up in that balloon with singer Cliff Richard. Not many people get that opportunity do they?"

"I wouldn't normally go up in a hot air balloon, having two small children. I would consider that irresponsible, in case there was an accident. They asked if my husband John would like to come up too. But it's just out on. If an accident did happen, the children would be left orphans."

"There is no need for me to be frightened by doing these things. I'm living in extended time anyway."

Slim, attractive Sandra, who lives in a neat, terrace home in Three Bridges, Surrey, was wearing immaculate make-up, a brightly-coloured summer dress and red, high-heeled shoes. She said: "I make the effort because I don't want people to think of me as dead or dying. I must say I feel OK at the moment."

Then she explained the philosophy that has borrowed her vital extra months. Sandra said: "I read a book about cancer that said it was no good living for your children. In my case this six-year-old Christopher and Jocelyn, aged four."

"You have to live for yourself. So I had a big party it was definitely for me. From that time I started organising it to when it all happened was nearly three months. And the thought of it kept me going for the time."

"The party was the start of my fund-raising-business. I paid a local radio station £300 to do a disco, and they said



Brave Sandra Hinds has already made her maiden flight in a glider. Now the mother of two has arranged to fly in a hot air balloon and dangle from a tiny microlight aircraft. Inset: Sandra Hinds, who is using every moment of the time she has left to raise money for cancer research.

they would give it back to me for cancer research. At that time I'd had my first flight in a glider.

"So my brother suggested I should do a parachute jump for charity. That was how the whole idea of doing the stunts began..."

The cancer charity thought a sponsored jump would be too risky. But they were delighted with Sandra's idea of holding a fund-raising 'day of adventure'. Now she is doing it for sponsors.

Sandra explained that she will use every minute of the time she has to raise money for research that will help others suffering like herself. She has breast cancer and a secondary form of the disease in both lungs and her lymph glands.

But she believes she is the lucky one in the family. She explained: "I've got the easiest job going today, with my flowers in the bedroom being looked after. When it gets to the point where I'm going to die, that's what I'll do."

Typically, Sandra has already given 41-year-old husband John, a production engineer, the chance to leave her. She explained: "When you say your marriage vows, you don't know that something like this will happen. There is no way John contemplated me dying in ten years into our marriage."

"I felt he had to be given the chance in all fairness. But he didn't go." With a wicked twinkle she added: "I did tell him he had to take the kids, and that's

probably why he stayed."

John has proved to be a tower of strength. Sandra told me: "He is a man in a million. I say to people, 'I've married the right man for the job'. An old friend said the other day that if it were his wife he'd be down at the doctor getting valium. I'm glad it's me because I can cope with myself being ill, but if John had cancer, I'd be in a terrible state. He's remarkable. He comes home from work some nights and has to do the housework. He puts the children to bed. He is just there doing things all the time without me having to programme him. 'I can't ask for more than that, because it means he'll be alright afterwards.'"

Sandra and John decided to tell their children the truth two years ago, as soon as they knew she had cancer.

Sandra said: "We talk openly in front of them. If John were to lie to the children about their mother dying, would they ever believe anything he told them again? 'It is such a major thing and, if we don't deal with it correctly now, it could muck them up forever.'"

John and Sandra have already decided that when Sandra dies, he will leave work to care for the children. She explained: "It seems the best way of easing their loss. I've done all the practical things I can do to help the family because I can't be here afterwards to sort out the mess."

Gutty Sandra has been working on a family album so that Christopher and Jocelyn will find it easier to remember her when they grow up. Sandra has already organised the family's finances. Her next project is making the arrangements for her funeral.

But she is also planning adventures for the future, and living each exciting day as it comes. Also she is busy finding sponsors for her derring-do.

And Sandra has made another big decision, which will affect her last days. She has refused any further chemotherapy treatment. She said: "I have had six months of chemotherapy, and most likely more of it wouldn't work. It was awful and I'm not prepared to put my children through that again."

"They had to sit and watch me being ill. And although I used to get three weeks off in between treatments, I never quite recovered."

"I believe in the quality of life, not the quantity. You wouldn't put a dog through what they put some cancer patients through. I'm better than a dog, so I'm not going to go through it. I would rather have six months feeling alright than suffer what Jill Ireland went through. She had catheters put in her heart with drugs going through them. For all her veins had already turned out from the chemotherapy."

"The treatment can cause more trouble than the cancer. You have to weigh up what you are prepared to put up with. Sandra feels that her mother is upset by the decision, because it means she may not have Sandra around for quite so long."

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Hong Kong's 'cigarette boat' smugglers Pirates play a deadly game

HONG KONG, (Reuters): High-powered outboard motors scream out of the dark, there is a splintering crash and two seriously injured Hong Kong policemen flounder in the water.

The policemen, one of whom later died, were in a high-speed inflatable that tried to intercept a grey 'cigarette boat' suspected of smuggling goods to China.

Police say the suspected smugglers deliberately rammed the police boat, throwing its crew into the water and crushing constable Chan Kun-Pun, who died of serious head wounds.

The suspects were never caught. Police say the stakes have never been higher for smugglers who thread their way through the bays and islets of the British colony's coast before making a dash for China through waters that a century and more ago were the haunt of pirates.

Because of the nature of the crime, statistics are hard to come by. John MacDonald, who retired last month as assistant police commissioner in charge of the colony's 3,000-strong marine division, talked of one smugglers' boat intercepted recently.

On board, police found an accounts ledger that showed a profit of 40 million H.K. dollars

(\$5.1 million) from contraband in the past six months.

Last week, superintendent Laurence Knox told members of Hong Kong's island communities that an average of 10,000 to 12,000 items a month are smuggled from the village of Tai O on southwest Lantau Island, mostly television sets and video cassette recorders.

He said Tai O was a favourite jumping-off point for smugglers because Chinese territorial waters lie just beyond the fishing community.

Marine police and British navy officers on anti-smuggling patrol say smuggling methods are becoming more sophisticated.

"Five years ago we were stopping fishing boats chugging along with a load of cigarettes on board. Now we track speed boats that can hit 130 kph (80 mph) and are armour-plated," said a British naval officer.

A speedboat with four 400-horsepower outboard motors can carry a million contraband cigarettes and 100 video cassette recorders.

"We reckon it takes about five quick trips to recoup the cost of the boat, the rest is sheer profit," the officer said.

A Hong Kong Chinese mariner who works for a company renting out pleasure junks said he had refused an offer of 10,000 H.K. dollars (\$1,300) to pilot a "cigarette boat" on one run to China.

"They were offering 5,000 H.K. dollars (\$650) just for a crewman to load and unload," he said.

China has started cracking down on smuggling and asked Hong Kong to help. The speedboats are armour-plated because Chinese anti-smuggling patrols will not hesitate to open fire, naval officers said.

Hong Kong recently imposed restrictions on the use of speedboats after dark. The marine department has stopped issuing licences to craft with multiple engines exceeding 600 horsepower in total, or with fuel capacity of more than 817 litres (178 gallons).

A key problem is that Hong Kong is a free port. Provided the smugglers have a bill of lading for the goods aboard and break no local laws covering marine craft, there is little the Hong Kong police can do in the colony's waters.

And the magnet that attracts the smugglers is still very strong. Visitors who have been to small fishing communities along the south China coast to the east of Hong Kong say smuggling has virtually replaced fishing as the main occupation.

"The stuff's unloaded there and mid-dlemen from the big cities come down and buy cigarettes and luxury goods," said one recent visitor to the area.

ANC seeks shift in approach to arts

GRAHAMSTOWN, South Africa, (Reuters): The complacent routine of South Africa's premier arts festival was shattered this year when the African National Congress came to town and said Mozart would have to make way for marimbas.

"We expect to see changes," black resistance poet Barbara Masekela, head of the ANC's London-based Department of Arts and Culture, said in a lecture.

"Strong action will be taken in the future if the pace of change is not fast enough," she told artists and academics in the first statement of ANC policy on culture since the movement was legalised in February.

For 10 days each winter, students and scholars move out of Grahamstown for their mid-year break and South Africa's answer to Oxford gets overrun by about 20,000 well-heeled and mainly white culture buffs.

From ballet to Benjamin Britten, Beethoven and optimistic buskers, from Shakespeare to township sculpture, the festival is a show window of the coming year's best.

But for millions of South Africans, most of the black majority, the 1,000 performances and exhibitions of the privately-funded National Arts Festival are beyond reach.

Getting to Grahamstown, more than 1,000 km (600 miles) from the townships of Johannesburg and Pretoria, is physically impossible for many and the price of tickets is prohibitive.

And now critics are saying the programme, which puts Richard II on its "Main Festival" bill and relegates a black story-teller to an outlying venue of the "Fringe," is too European of its focus.

Book reviews

Masterful mysteries

Coyote Waits, By Tony Hillerman

(Harper and Row, 292 pp., \$19.95)

THE Navajo world is one of order and balance. If something becomes untracked or off-centre, the Navajos call a Shaman to perform a ritual and restore harmony.

The forces that push the Navajo world askew are sometimes attributed to the mythical coyote, a creature that young people learn from childhood stories can be playful but adults discover can also be enemy of order.

Tony Hillerman, in what may be his best effort yet, uses the mythology of coyote as a metaphor to show what happens when greed and ambition are thrown together with the old reservation ways.

Hillerman's familiar detectives — Lt Joe Leaphorn, who dreams of retiring, and young romantic officer Jim Chee — are back together again. Hillerman does a superb job of weaving their tracks together as both men investigate the murder of a Navajo tribal policeman and the arrest of an elderly Shaman, Ashie Pinto.

Entwined in the tale is the story of a Wild West outlaw Butch Cassidy and the murder of a teacher who once was a high-ranking Vietnamese army officer and Central Intelligence Agency confidant.

This is a masterful mystery by an author who keeps getting better. It also is a welcome return to the Navajo reservation that Hillerman knows and loves, after his previous novel, 'Talking God,' spent so much time away from the reservation.

Triple Cross, By Louis Tescano

(Berk Lane, 302 pp., \$19.95)

To most Israelis, Mordchai Vanunu betrayed his faith and his country. But he also gave their government the opportunity to let the world know Israel was part of the nuclear club.

With in-depth research and clear prose, Louis Tescano examines the facts and fictions surrounding the Vanunu case. While unable to interview Vanunu, who was sentenced to 18 years in prison, Tescano skillfully pieces together the man and his possible motives.

Why did Vanunu, a control room technician for nearly 10 years, decide to photograph the Dimona facility and its underground components buried deep beneath the desert proving Israel's nuclear capacity? Why did he carry the evidence half way around the world and eventually allow the publication of the Dimona story in the Sunday Times of London? The answers are at the same time complicated and simple.

Vanunu seemed to desire more public responsibility to stop nuclear proliferation. But Vanunu seems to be seeking something more for himself from his adopted country — his family had emigrated from Morocco when he was young.

He wanted recognition and respect and an end to perceived as well as outright discrimination he felt.

Equally intriguing is Tescano's revelations of the Israeli leadership's desire to let the nuclear secret out through Vanunu and the publication of his story. He reveals the Israeli government's decision to suppress the truth of its role and the campaign of disinformation against Vanunu. In a country where security is paramount, "Vanunu's crime was far more serious than espionage or treason. He had broken faith with his country," Tescano writes.

But Israel, Tescano concludes, was guilty of its own crimes that made Vanunu's sentence, with the possibility of years of solitary confinement, "a particularly callous and cynical act."

"To allow Vanunu to spill the secrets of Dimona and then punish him for doing it was unconscionable," Tescano writes.

Into the Darkness, By Barbara Michaels

(Simon and Schuster, 358 pp., \$18.95)

"Into the Darkness" is an entertaining mass-market seller for experienced romantic suspense writer Barbara Michaels.

(Along with inheriting half of a jewellery shop, heroine Meg Venturi appears to have inherited a legacy of dark secrets about the shop's co-owner and some uninvited visitors.)

Although the plot and characters take predictable turns, Venturi is a likeable heroine and even experienced suspense readers will be surprised by the ending.

Dinosaurs waltz 'n stars a' winking

THE lights are all lit "at the dine cafe, while overhead chandeliers shimmer and sway. And everyone knows to get out of the way when dinosaurs/dinosaurs waltz."

There's the Stegosaurus Hop (named for Joe Stegosaurus, every girl's sweetheart) and the smooth moves of Tyrannosaurus (whose head is slicked down with hair oil and his suit a brilliant white, but who's good for one thing — Dino dancing for his mirror, where he reigns as a lonely king).

Jane Yolen's 'Dinosaur Dances' (Ill. Bruce Degen, Putnam, 48 pp., \$14.95, ages 5-9) gets the fingers snapping at a prehistoric party in the dark cretaceous night.

Whether Yolen is tapping out the beat of a square dance ("sandstone, limestone, mudstone, shale/fossilize and do not fail, Leave your prints of front and end/greet the next saur as a friend. Swing 'em,") or describing the picky brontosaurus who ends up as a wallflower, it's boisterous fun that sets even the stars a' winking.

Degen's witty watercolours are an enchantment. Guaranteed to shake up and rattle old dinosaur bones in everyone.

'Goodnight Twinklegator' by Kazuko Stone (Scribner, 40 pp., \$12.95, ages 3-6) opens on a beautiful night with a gentle moon in a crisp night sky. Alligay sits back and begins to connect the dots of tiny stars until he outlines twinklegator, who promptly comes down from the sky for some earthly fun. The two cavort across moonlit fields where even the grasshoppers and lazy bugs are asleep in hammocks and down through the pond where even the fish are sleeping silently. All's well until twinklegator decides he'd like to eat a few moon pancakes. The debut of this Japanese artist is splendid. He creates a night of soft warmth and easy rhythms.

In 'The Legend of Jimmy Spoon' by Kristiana Gregory (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 160 pp., \$14.95, ages 8-12), a young white boy learns the ways of the Shoshone Indians during the three years he lives with them. In writing about Jimmy's horse, Pinto Bean, or Jimmy's unfolding love for old mother and the lovely Nahane, Gregory's eye is keen and wise. She brings the old Indian ways to life with a magic as powerful as the great spirit. Not to be missed is the marvellous description of the bravery needed to get an eagle feather without killing an eagle.

Betty Levin's 'Brother Moose' (Greenwillow, 224 pp., \$12.95, ages 10 and up) is equally gripping. It is the tale of two young girls on their way to foster homes in Canada. Their adventure begins with a train ride, but before they reach their final destination, they will journey through the deep woods of northern Maine with a silent and secretive Indian and his 13-year-old grandson. They form an odd family in the snowy wilderness and learn about survival and loyalty and love. Written with intelligence and subtle grace. Eloquent and moving.

'Just for the Summer' by Karin Mango (Harper and Row, 208 pp., \$13.95, ages 12 and up) leads Jenny Smith to a series of discoveries about the angry boy next door, and about herself. Spending the summer as a lifeguard at a lake in New Hampshire, much of her time is taken up with trying to break through the barriers the boy has set up around himself. She succeeds in ways not even she expected. Irresistible and unexpectedly generous.

Lois Ehlert's ocean bright 'Fish Eyes, A Book You Can Count On' (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 32 pp., \$13.95, ages 4-8) is precisely that. And you can count on and on and on. Put on those fish scales and swim along with a little black fish for a first hand look at the watery world of arithmetic. The waters are deep but clear. Three plus one never equalled four in such a splashy way. Great fun.

A day at the races — Vietnam style

By David Storey

10 CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam, (Reuters): Ascot it ain't.

An afternoon at the races in Ho Chi Minh City mixes slapstick, a cheerful informality and the excitement of a flirtation with gambling, normally frowned on by Vietnam's dour communist rulers.

Unlike the races at Britain's Ascot Week, no one comes to the track here for fashion. The only hats to be seen are on straw creations used in the paddock and scruffy baseball caps often bearing the name of a foreign advertiser.

At the Phu Tho track there are none of the convoluted betting combinations and odds options that demand the brain power of an Einstein at more developed tracks.

The small horses and child jockeys lend the scene a Lilliputian air.

In the third race on a recent sunny Sunday afternoon one horse burst from the starting gate and ran straight into the rail, throwing its 12-year-old rider several feet in the air.

The horse slipped through a gap and was only brought up after 50 metres (yards) because the grass in the neighbouring field was so deep.

In the fourth race the outsider Yellow Dragon set off with the field but went astray somewhere in the back straight. It galloped jauntily across the line eight minutes after the winner as the punters, most of them in the tatty, drab clothes of Vietnam's poor, were examining form for the

next race.

By the acclaim of the crowd the most exciting race was between a jeep and a gaggle of urchins who took a short cut over the course.

As the boys ran directly across the central grassy area the jeep, carrying several officials, burst around the track to intercept them. Most just made it to safety but, to the cheers of the stand, one was caught and brought back to be disciplined.

In what was once the sinful city of Saigon, horse racing stopped as the communist forces closed in for the kill against the US-backed government in the early 1970s.

It restarted in March last year, largely at the instigation of Philip Chau, a business-

man from Saigon's Chinese community who had gone off to make his living in Hong Kong where he set up a Vietnamese restaurant.

Chau, who grew up grooming and riding horses owned by his father at the French-built track, left his homeland in 1975 when Saigon fell but nostalgia and the gradual opening up of society and the economy in the late 1980s drew him back.

"I was born in Vietnam. Here there is my language, my climate, my food, my friends," Chau said in an interview at the course, interrupting the conversation from time to time to peer at the horses through a pair of smart yellow binoculars.

"I came back in 1987. There was still a little racing in the countryside, nothing normal. It gave me the idea."

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4. Adel Bayoumi & Dhruva Muk-tip

5. Ravi Bhatt & M. Merchant
6. Alfred Banayot & Mohamed Elbaz

Cameroon player

FIGUERAS, Spain, July 27. (Reuters) Cameroon World Cup midfielder Louis M'Fede has signed a two-year contract with Spanish second division side Figueras, the club said. A spokesman said M'Fede, 29, would receive \$200,000 for the transfer from his Yaounde club Canon. But he declined to reveal the total fee involved.

British Seniors golf

TURNBERRY, Scotland, July 27. (Reuters) Arnold Palmer made the ideal start to his fourth attempt at winning the British Seniors golf championship yesterday by sharing the first round lead with a four-under-par 66.

Nacional win

MEDELLIN, Colombia, July 27. (Reuters) Two headed goals in three minutes gave Colombia's Atletico Nacional a well-deserved 2-0 win over Mexico's Nacional Autonoma University side in the first leg of the Inter-American Soccer Cup final on Wednesday night.

America's Cup

ASUNCION, Paraguay, July 27. (AP) Chile, Colombia, Uruguay and Bolivia have bid to host next year's America's Cup soccer championship, and a decision will be made next week, an official of the South American Soccer Federation said yesterday.

Olympic bid

BRASILIA, July 27. (Reuters) Former World Cup soccer star Zico, the Brazilian secretary of sport, will head a bid by Brazil for the 2000 Olympic Games, a government spokesman said on Wednesday.

TV coverage

HAVANA, July 27. (Reuters) The 1991 Pan-American Games in Cuba will have adequate television coverage and anti-doping controls and include howling, despite problems raised by the US trade blockade, a senior Cuban official said on Wednesday.

Record holder

LONDON, July 27. (AP) World mile record holder Steve Cram said Wednesday he will risk another injury by running in Britain's European track trials in an attempt to retain his European 1,500 metres track title next month.

Baseball star

NEW YORK, July 27. (AP) Most people in the United States overwhelmingly believe former baseball star and coach Pete Rose deserved jail time for evading taxes, but most also say he should be allowed to work in baseball again — and even get a swing at the Hall of Fame.

NL umpire

BAKERSFIELD, California, July 27. (AP) Suspended National League umpire Bob Engel pleaded no contest Wednesday to stealing baseball cards, then announced he is retiring from baseball. Engel, who entered the plea through his attorney, was sentenced to three years probation and ordered to perform 40 hours of community service.

Record bonus

NEW YORK, July 27. (AP) American Leroy Burrell and Carl Lewis will head a 400-metre relay team that will be chasing a \$50,000 world record bonus in Sunday's New York World Games at Columbia University. Fred Lelhow, the meet's executive director, announced yesterday he would offer the bonus if the Santa Monica track club team of Lewis, Leroy Mark Witherspoon and Floyd Heard breaks the record of 37.83 seconds, set by the 1984 US Olympic team.

Yankees' player

NEW YORK, July 27. (AP) New York Yankees' Don Mattingly returned home to Indiana yesterday and will be placed on the disabled list with back problems that could force him to miss the rest of the season. The team said a decision would be made within a day or two on when to put Mattingly on the injured list, thus removing him from the active roster.

Bizarre report

SYDNEY, July 27. (Reuters) An Australian man claims a letter he sent to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev complaining about a punch thrown by a Soviet rugby union player has led to the sacking of the Soviet rugby coach and two players. Australian officials and players yesterday said the report was bizarre and, if true, they regretted such evasive action had been taken.

Sprint coach

SEATTLE, Washington, July 27. (Reuters) The former coach of 1988 US women's sprint sensation Dawne Sowell has begun helping Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson prepare to return to competition. Loren Seagrave, a former coach at Louisiana State University, is working regularly with the former world record holder in Toronto. Johnson's two-year suspension for testing positive for a banned steroid at the Seoul Olympics ends on September 4.

Equestrian games

STOCKHOLM, July 27. (Reuters) Results at the World Equestrian Games yesterday:

World dressage championship: individual: 1. Margit Otto-Crepin (France) riding Corlandus 1,456 points; 2. Sven Rothenberger (West Germany) ideal 1,429; 3. Nina Jankovic (Soviet Union) 1,402; 4. Ann-Kristin Kroth (West Germany) 1,377; 5. Alery Tishkov (Soviet Union) 1,354; 6. Pia Luns (Italy) 1,344. Team: 1. West Germany 2,806 points; 2. Soviet Union 2,760; 3. France 2,640.

Agassi brushes aside Cahill

McEnroe sails through



McEnroe showed signs of resurgence

TORONTO, July 27. (Reuters) John McEnroe, playing his best tennis in recent times, breezed to a 6-3 6-4 win over Amos Mansdorf in the third round of the \$1.2 million Canadian Open men's tennis championships on Thursday.

Top-seed Andre Agassi made quick work of unseeded Darren Cahill 6-2 6-4. The fourth-ranked Agassi was ruthless — he rarely permitted Cahill to successfully approach the net.

"It was a good day — a good day at the office," said the modest Agassi.

The third-seeded McEnroe is showing the first signs of a resurgence.

"Since I started playing it's probably the best I've played," McEnroe said. "I served and volleyed pretty well, but there's still work to be done."

At Wimbledon, there was a rumour that some of that work would include coaching assistance from none other than Jimmy Connors. During a television interview — with Connors interviewing McEnroe — the issue was raised.

"I thought there might have been something to it," said the 12th-ranked McEnroe. "If Jimmy wanted to come around and help me, I think there are things he could help me with."

"I think he's still cooking up ideas for himself to play," McEn-

roe added. "But it sounded fine to me (to work together). I'd be surprised if he didn't start playing again."

McEnroe is not sitting around waiting to hear from Connors, who is on the injured list. He has gone back to his roots — working with boyhood coach Tony Palafox during his off-weeks in New York.

McEnroe is honest when he compares himself to the McEnroe of yesterday. He knows there is a wide gap that needs to be closed to get back closer to his earlier form.

"Right now, I don't think I do anything better," McEnroe said.

Agassi gave the 66th-ranked Cahill a lesson in playing tennis.

In the first set, Agassi served at 81 per cent to Cahill's 48 per cent, and Agassi had 14 outright winners in the set and Cahill had 14 unforced errors.

In the second set, the score indicated a better showing for Cahill than there really existed. Agassi kept the pressure on and Cahill looked wobbly on his chances.

Results

Jakob Hlasek (Switzerland) beat Jimmy Arias (US) 7-5 6-1; 6-Tim Mayotte (US) beat 11-Rickey Rasmussen (US) 6-3 4-6 6-3; 3-John McEnroe (US) beat 13-Amos Mansdorf (Israel) 6-3 6-4; Todd Witsken (US) beat Ramona Kriksnan (India) 6-4 6-4; 7-Michael Chang (US) beat 9-Dave Wheaton (US) 6-0 6-3; 4-Jay Berger (US) beat Derrick Rostagno (US) 4-6 6-4 6-1; 1-Andre Agassi (US) beat Darren Cahill (Australia) 6-2 6-4; 5-Pete Sampras (US) beat Andrew Sznajder (Canada) 4-6 6-3 6-2.

US tame Czechoslovakia

ATLANTA, July 27. (Reuters) Zina Garrison won redemption and her defending champion US team won a doubles showdown with Czechoslovakia yesterday while Austria ended Britain's hopes at the Federation Cup tennis tournament.

Garrison, the top player on the top-seeded US team, felt she needed to redeem herself because Jana Novotna had beaten her to give the seventh-seeded Czechoslovak team a singles split with the Americans after 14-year-old Jennifer Capriati defeated Regina Rajchrtova.

That made the doubles the decided of who would advance to the semifinals of the Federation Cup, the women's equivalent of the Davis Cup.

"Failed," Garrison said. "The first set, turned on — a tiebreaker which Garrison and Gigi Fernandez won 10-8 after Novotna and Rajchrtova failed to convert two set points."

The Czechoslovaks went out to 2-0 in the second set but, as Novotna admitted later, she had spent all her emotional energy, and the Americans caught them at 2-2, passed them for good at 5-4 and closed it out in the next game.

Novotna, ranked 14th in the world, earlier had baffled Garrison, who at number four is the top-rated player in the tournament, to score a surprisingly easy 6-3 6-3 win.

"She was just everywhere I hit the ball," Garrison said.

In the opening US-Czechoslovak match, Capriati defeated Rajchrtova 6-2 7-6 (7-4), for the second day in a row winning in a second-set tiebreaker.

In the day's other quarter-final action, third-seeded Austria won two three-set singles matches with unseeded Britain, who on Wednesday had ousted the sixth-seeded Italians in the second round.

Barbara Paulus beat Jo Durie 7-6 (7-3) 5-7 6-4 and Judith Wiesner won a two-hour, 16-minute battle with Sarah Loosmore 7-6 (7-4) 2-6 8-6 in which the 19-year-old Briton failed to convert three set points at 5-4 in the first set.

Garrison admitted to having



Jennifer Capriati

been a bit confused and angry after her singles loss to Novotna. "I was a little upset. I didn't really know how I lost. I thought I hit good shots and I hit better ones."

Garrison said that after her loss, she told Fernandez she needed a doubles to redeem herself. "Like I told Gigi, I'm a competitor. I like to win no matter how it comes. I felt that I needed somehow to redeem myself."

Garrison said she thought Novotna had missed her usual partner, 11th-ranked Helena Sukova, who is out with an Achilles tendon injury. "She was not there," Garrison

said.

Novotna refused to blame her less experienced partner Rajchrtova, saying they played well enough to win the match. "I think Regina was a great partner today. I can't say I missed Helena," Novotna said.

But she did say that after her singles win, in the second set of the doubles, she began feeling tired — "not like physically, but emotionally, tired of being the leader of the team."

Novotna said that in the second set, "I don't know if we believed we could still... play another hour and win in the third. I just didn't have any more power."

Capriati for the second consecutive day sailed through her first set only to be taken to a tiebreaker in the second, and said she thought the "upset" was "a little bit nervous in the first set. But she also conceded: "After I win the first set I kind of lose concentration."

Capriati, who led the crowd in chanting "USA, USA" for her team-mates in later matches, added: "I like it when I have to fight hard and come back and the crowd really gets into it."

Britain was given a victory in the meaningless doubles when the Austrians retired after Beate Rein-stadler hurt her shoulder following a throw on a serve and hitting a hard court surface.

Great British captain Ann Jones said she was happy with her team's showing here. "Yesterday was a great win and today both the singles players played excellent matches. We were within two points or two ticks of winning both of them."

Wiesner, ranked 15th in the world to Loosmore's 9th, said of her victory: "It was a little bit of luck, and determination in the end."

She said she tried to mix her shots to Loosmore but felt if the up-and-coming Briton had a weakness, it might be on her forehand side.

Like Wiesner, Paulus said her match could have gone either way and with a little luck Durie could have won.

Moorhouse equals 100m swim record

LONDON, July 27. (Reuters) Adrian Moorhouse of Britain equalled his world 100 metres breaststroke record for the second time in six months yesterday but still felt disappointed.

The Olympic champion clocked one minute 1.49 seconds in the final swimming championships. He was chased home by club mate James Parrrack, whose time of one minute 2.09 seconds was the second fastest in the world this year.

"I was disappointed," Moorhouse said. "I'm happy that I've proved again that I'm still the best in the world, but I don't want to prove that any more. I want to keep on improving the record." He said he would try and do just that at a meeting in Rome next month.

Moorhouse first set his record when he won the European title in Bonn last August and recorded the same time when taking the Commonwealth Games crown in Auckland in January.

But yesterday's swim made him the first Briton to set a world record in Britain since Scotland's Ian Bell 400 metres individual medley record in Cardiff in 1958.

"It's nice to equal the world record in Britain," Moorhouse said. "My family have seen the two previous records but all the friends that I train with have never seen me do it."

It was clear the record was on when he covered the first 50 metres in a blistering 28.84 seconds and surged away at the turn. But his frustration showed when he looked up at the clock and saw the time of 1:01.49 yet again.

"I thought somebody must have been joking and that they had put up that time again just for a laugh," he said.



Sainz in action on Wednesday's leg (Reuters wirephoto)

Biasion wins 2nd leg

BUENOS AIRES, July 27. (Reuters) Reigning world champion Massimo Biasion of Italy won the second leg of the Argentine motor rally after championship leader Carlos Sainz of Spain overturned his Toyota on a mountain road yesterday.

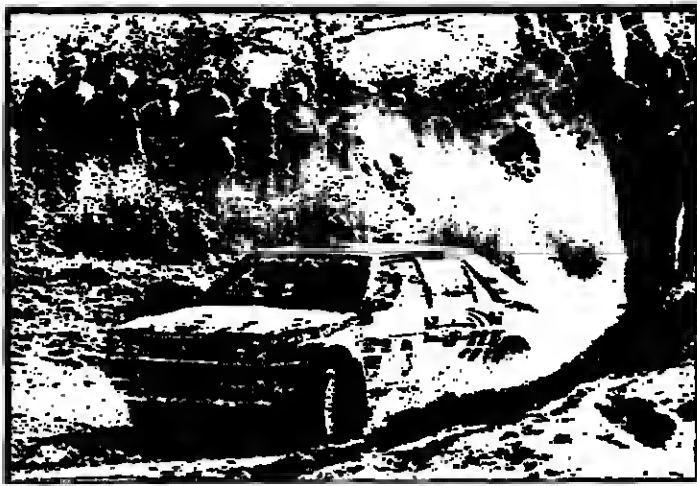
Sainz and his team-mate Luis Moya were not hurt in the accident, which happened during the 13th prime of the 2,118 km (1,324-mile) rally.

He returned to the race and finished second at the end of the leg in Cordoba, a city 800 km (500 miles) northwest of Buenos Aires, organisers said.

Biasion, winner of the past two drivers' championships, on Wednesday took the first leg from Buenos Aires to Cordoba, a 930-km long (580 mile) haul raced mostly on tarmac.

After 175 km (100 miles) of the 445 km (280 miles) second leg on dirt roads on Cordoba's hills, Biasion's general time was two hours 53 minutes and 38 seconds.

Until his accident, Sainz had cut Biasion's initial three-second lead to under one second, but by the time he reached Cordoba the



Biasion on way to victory in the first leg (Reuters wirephoto)

Italian, who won the Argentine rally in 1986 and 1987, had widened his advantage to two minutes and 10 seconds.

Lancia had mixed fortunes with its two other drivers yesterday.

Juha Kankkunen of Finland, third after Wednesday's first leg, dropped out of the race after his gear box broke down, organisers

said. Frenchman Didier Auriol, who had lagged in the first leg due to trouble in his Lancia's turbo system, finished eighth in the current standings, organisers said.

The 376 km (235 mile) third leg was due to start at 07.00 (100 GMT) today. The fourth and last leg is scheduled for tomorrow.

NFL to expand

NEW YORK, July 27. (AP) The National Football League expects to add two teams by the 1993 season and may realign divisions as early as 1992.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue told the League's club owners yesterday that the League's expansion and realignment committee considers 1993 a realistic target for expansion.

"There is a strong interest on the committee in a thorough examination of realignment," Tagliabue said. "I restated my personal belief that a two-team expansion in 1993 is a realistic objective for the League to pursue and the committee members shared that belief."

The commissioner reported on a meeting of the committee which was held June 15 and said that a decision on the possible expansion would have to be made next year or early 1992 for teams to begin play in 1993.

The committee recommended limiting such expansion to two teams, citing "the overall economic climate and other factors."

Among the cities and areas mentioned for franchises are Jacksonville, Florida, Memphis, Tennessee, the states of North

Jordan hits home runs

CHICAGO, July 27. (AP) Michael Jordan moved from the basketball court to the batter's box Wednesday when he joined a Chicago White Sox practice and promptly hit two home runs.

Jordan, wearing a numberless Sox uniform, knocked two practice pitches into the left field stands at Comiskey Park.

"I've always been a pull hitter," Jordan, a right-hander, said after the baseball practice. "I took some pretty good pitches. It was fun. It really was."

The 6-foot-6 (1.98-metre) star of the Chicago Bulls professional basketball team took the first three pitches from bullpen coach Dave Laroche before he stroked one to centre field.

Jordan then answered the crowd's chants with two home runs, one narrowly missing the upper deck.



Tyson with promoter Donald Trump (left) at the news conference (Reuters wirephoto)

Tyson fit for Stewart fight

NEW YORK, July 27. (Reuters) Brimming with confidence, former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson on Wednesday formally announced a September 22 bout with top-10 contender Alex Stewart on his second step to regain the world heavyweight title he lost last February.

"I'm not worried when the 22nd comes," said Tyson of the scheduled 10-round bout in Atlantic City against the English-born Jamaican with a 26-1 record. The dude is going to be in trouble. Stewart is dead and if I don't knock him out, it doesn't count."

Punching power had been Tyson's trademark during his four-year championship reign, before James "Buster" Douglas knocked out the former champion on February 11 in Tokyo.

Tyson returned to the ring last month with a first-round knockout of lightly-regarded fellow-American Henry Tillman in Las Vegas for his 38th victory in 39 fights.

While he will have to wait his turn to get a title crack as Douglas first defends against number-one contender Evander Holyfield later this year, Tyson has no doubts about the identity of the future heavyweight king.

"I'm going to regain the title," Tyson said. "Everybody has their doubts, but it will be a different era altogether and they will have to pay their dues."

"I'm not letting my body get out of shape anymore," said the 24-year-old Tyson. "I'm in great shape and just concentrating on being a better boxer."

Tyson's words and look, however, did not appear to upset Stewart, who became a legitimate title contender last year in a rousing eight-round losing effort against Holyfield.

"We all know Tyson, there is no secret. He comes and takes care of business," said the New York-based 25-year-old.

Ryan blasted in attempt to win 300th game

ARLINGTON, Texas, July 27. (Reuters) Nolan Ryan, the 43-year-old Texan who has more strikeouts and no-hitters than any other pitcher, failed on Wednesday in his first attempt to join an elite group of pitchers with 300 or more career victories.

Ryan was unable to beat the New York Yankees, who have the worst record in baseball this season, as he gave up three home runs, 10 hits overall, and left the game after eight innings trailing 7-3.

His Texas Ranger teammates tied the score in the bottom of the ninth, so Ryan avoided getting charged with a loss, and went on to win 9-7 in the 11th inning.

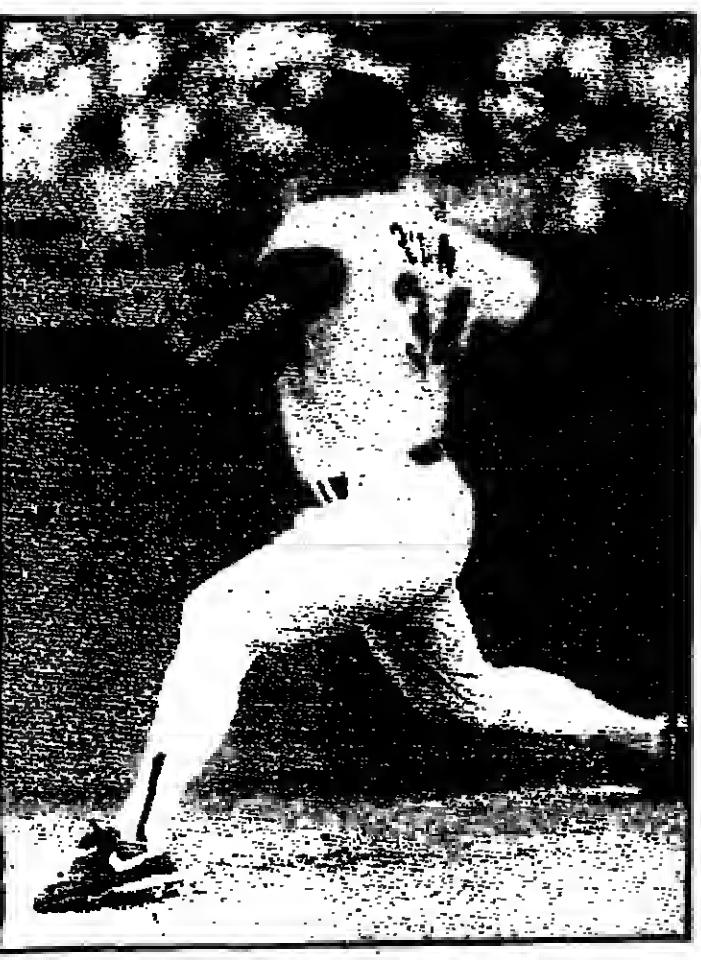
He was scheduled to try again next Tuesday in Milwaukee to become only the 20th pitcher to win at least 300 games. Ryan's nine strikeouts on Wednesday raised his career total to 5,211.

Ryan, who notched his 299th career win last Friday, seemed to be bothered by an intense barrage of attention from reporters and fans.

He was also bothered by a chronic back problem and was visibly limping during his warm-up routine.

Ryan, in his 24th big league season, struggled from the start, giving up a triple to the first batter he faced.

"On a personal basis, it was really disappointing," Ryan said after the game. "When people go out of their way, spend a lot of money, change their routine, just



Ryan in action on Wednesday (Reuters wirephoto)

to come see you pitch, the last thing you want to do is to have a bad outing."

It was the first time this season that Ryan gave up as many as seven runs in one game and only

the second time since joining the Rangers in 1989 that he allowed as many as 10 hits.

Tigers 10, Red Sox 4

In Detroit, Lloyd Moseby hit a tape-measure home run and a two-run single and Alan Trammell and Lou Whitaker each had three hits and two RBIs as Detroit knocked Boston out of a first-place tie in the American League East. The Red Sox dropped one game behind Toronto.

Winner Dan Pety (8-6) yielded three runs and seven hits in 5-3 innings. Loser was Gardner (2-6) went 1-2-3 innings, giving up four runs.

The Tigers broke a 1-1 tie with three runs in the second inning. Gardner started the inning by walking Moseby and Scott Luscader, who moved up on John Shelby's sacrifice. Mark Salas' groundout scored Moseby and Whitaker, who homered in the eighth off Jeff Gray, singled Luscader home.

Gardner walked Tony Phillips and was replaced by Dennis Lamp, Trammell greeted lamp with an RBI single.

Mariners 6, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Edgar Martinez's three-run homer snapped a string of 182 at-bats without a home run. Martinez hit seven homers in his first 134 at-bats but none since May 24. He had only one RBI in his previous 17 games.

Ken Griffey Jr added his 14th homer in support of Bill Swift (4-2), who had his third consecutive

strong start after 30 straight relief appearances this season.

Standings

American League

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Toronto	2	46	.331	-
Boston	51	47	.520	1
Baltimore	47	45	.545	4 1/2
Detroit	48	52	.480	5
Cleveland	46	50	.479	5
Minnesota	44	51	.463	6 1/2
New York	34	60	.362	16

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Oakland	2	36	.333	-
Chicago	6	37	.362	3 1/2
Seattle	1	48	.315	11 1/2
Texas	49	48	.505	12 1/2
California	48	51	.485	14 1/2
Minnesota	46	52	.469	16
Kansas City	5	51	.469	16

Yesterday's games

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	6	Minnesota	4	
California	4	Oakland	2	
Detroit	10	Boston	4	
Toronto	7	Kansas City	5	

National League

Cincinnati	59	37	.613	—
San Francisco	51	46	.526	8 1/2
Los Angeles	48	48	.500	11
San Diego	42	54	.438	17
Houston	41	58	.414	19 1/2
Atlanta	39	57	.406	20
Yesterday's games				
New York	6	St Louis	1	
St Louis	3	New York	1	
	3	Chicago	2	

SPORTS

Indian manager criticises his captain.

LONDON, July 27, (Reuters): Indian manager Bishen Bedi openly criticised his captain Mohammad Azharuddin for putting England in to bat in the first cricket Test yesterday.

England finished on 359 for two with captain Graham Gooch 194 out and

Allan Lamb unbeaten on 104.

Bedi, a former Test bowler and India's second highest wicket-taker, said: "I don't know why they were put in — you had better ask the captain about that."

I think our batsmen would have wanted to bat first. Personally, I would have wan-

ted to bowl on that wicket in the fourth innings.

Azharuddin, appointed India's third captain in the space of four months for the tour of New Zealand earlier this year, defended his decision.

"We had a very good session. We took

an early wicket and should have had Graham Gooch out cheaply, and if that wicket had gone down it could have turned into a very good start," he said.

The ball was moving around, but we did not bowl well after that first session."

Walsh takes Gloucester to brink of first victory

LONDON, July 27, (Reuters): West Indies pace bowler Courtney Walsh took Gloucestershire to the verge of their first county cricket championship win of the season yesterday.

Walsh, who took three wickets as Northamptonshire were dismissed for just 150 runs on Wednesday, picked up another five at Cheltenham as the visitors collapsed to 72 for six.

But an unbroken seventh wicket stand of 41 between Nigel Feltun and David Ripley took the match into a third day although Gloucestershire, who had declared 305 runs ahead, still look set to pick up their first win of the summer today.

Championship leaders Middlesex set themselves up for another third day run-chase against Kent at Canterbury.

Captain Mike Gatting declared at 308 for three after Mark Ramprakash's second consecutive century. John Emburey took two wickets in four balls as Kent fell to 30 for three, 171 ahead. Middlesex, who won a run chase in the final over against Somerset earlier in the week, will be hoping for a reasonable declaration from Kent captain Mark Benson.

Earlier, Simon Hinks (234) and Neil Taylor (152 not out) set a new Kent record with a second-wicket stand of 366.

Scores

A Scarborough: Somerset 401 for seven declared in 104.5 overs and 49 for one. Yorkshire 303 for six declared in 99.5 overs (A. Metcalfe 102, A. Grayson 44 not out).

At Derby: Worcestershire 348 in 123.3 overs (S. Bace six for 105). Derbyshire 192 in 91.4 overs (S. Lampitt five for 34, R. Illingworth five for 59) and 39 for one.

At Canterbury: Kent 449 for two declared in 123.1 overs (S. Hinks 234, N. Taylor 152 not out) and 30 for three declared in 110 overs and 16 for two.

Glamorgan 373 for seven declared in 97 overs (H. Morris 106, R. Croft 74 not out, P. Cottee 50, A. Pierson five for 101).

At Arundel: Sussex 383 for nine declared in 121 overs (A. Pigott 64 not out). Hampshire 254 for five in 98 overs (C. Smith 132 not out, T. Middleton 50).

At Leicester: Essex 197 in 66.3 overs and 154 for four (J. Stephenson 62 not out, N. Shahid 48). Leicestershire 301 in 102.3 overs (N. Briers 92, W. Benjamin 54, L. Potter 48).

At Southampton: Lancashire 452 in 108 overs. Nottinghamshire 205 in 54 overs (C. Broad 122, K. Evans 48 not out, P. Allitt four for 37) and 229 for three (P. Johnson 69 not out, C. Broad 46, T. Robinson 41).

At Cheltenham: Northamptonshire 150 in 45.4 overs and 113 for six. Gloucestershire 455 for nine declared in 142.2 overs (A. Wright 112, K. Curran 86, R. Williams 44 not out).

England pile up mammoth score

Gooch slams India for 333

LONDON, July 27, (Reuters): England captain Graham Gooch hit a magnificent 333, the sixth highest score in Test cricket history, to submerge India beneath a sea of records on the second day of the first Test at Lord's today.

Gooch came within 33 runs of breaking Sir Garfield Sobers world record of 365 as England amassed 653 for four declared, a record for Tests between England and India.

The 37-year-old Gooch, 194 not out overnight, surpassed the highest score ever made by a Test captain, the most by any batsman in first-class cricket at Lord's and became only the fifth Englishman to strike 300 in a Test match.

When he was finally bowled off-stump by Manoj Prabhakar he had batted for 10 hours 33 minutes, hitting three sixes and 43 fours in his 485-ball stay.

Only Sobers, who had made 365 not out for West Indies against Pakistan in Kingston in 1958, England's Sir Len Hutton (364) Pakistan's Hanif Mohammad (337), England's Wally Hammond (336 not out) and Australia's Sir Donald Bradman (334) have made more runs in one Test innings.

Allan Lamb, 104 not out when play started, hit a Test-best 139 and Robin Smith also made an unbeaten century before Gooch's declaration finally put India out of their misery.

Gooch passed a host of landmarks at regular intervals from the moment he and Lamb resumed in the morning at 359 for two.

He eclipsed his own career-best Test score of 196 set against Australia at the Oval in 1985 and, at 240, equalled the previous highest Test score by an Englishman at Lord's held by Wally Hammond.



Gooch: took the Indian bowlers to task

Genfi Bnycott's 246 at Headingley in 1967, the previous highest Test score by an Englishman against India, also disappeared as Gooch motored on towards 300.

A brief stoppage for rain and the loss of Lamb just before lunch, well caught in the gully by Sanjeev Sharma with the score on 449, held him up slightly and he was left tantalisingly on 299 at the tea interval.

English supporters did not have long to wait. Soon after the restart Gooch flicked a ball from

left-arm spinner Ravi Shastri off his hip for a single to become only the 12th player in score a triple century in Tests.

By now, after more than 10 hours at the crease, Gooch was looking understandably tired but he still found the energy to thrash Shastri for six towards the Nursery End sightscreen to reach 323.

A second stoppage for rain lasting 25 minutes forced him off the field once more but, on his return, Sobers' record began to look comfortably within reach. He passed the 325 of England's

Andy Sandham, the first player to score a triple century in Tests in 1929-30, and appeared eager once again.

But, with his side on 641 for three, an inswinger from Prabhakar crept between bat and pad to bring an end to one of the finest innings seen at Lord's, the traditional home of cricket.

The crowd rose as one to salute his effort and he received a huge ovation as he made his weary way back to the pavilion, wiping the sweat from his brow.

After that, Smith's century, which came off 155 balls in 175 minutes with 14 fours was almost an anticlimax.

There was just time for England new cap John Morris to strike his first Test boundary before Gooch called a halt. It was England's highest total in a Test for over 50 years.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND first innings (overnight 359 for two)

G. Gooch b Prabhakar 333
M. Atherton b Kapil Dev 8
D. Gower c Manjrekar b Hirwarl 40
A. Lamb c Manjrekar b Sharma 139
R. Smith not out 100
J. Morris not out 4
Extras (b-2 lb-21 w-2 nb-4) 29
Total (four wickets declared) 653
Fall of wickets: 1-142-141 3-449-4-64

Did not bat: J. Russell, C. Lewis, E. Hemmings, A. Fraser, D. Malcolm.
Bowling: Kapil Dev 34-5-120-1, Prabhakar 43-6-187-1, Sharma 33-5-122-1, Shastri 22-0-89-0, Hirwarl 30-1-102-3

INDIA first innings
R. Shastri not out 27
N. Sidhu not out 20
Extras (nb-1) 1
Total (for no wicket) 48

To bat: S. Manjrekar, D. Vangarskar, M. Azharuddin (captain), S. Tendulkar, K. More, Kapil Dev, M. Prabhakar, S. Sharma, N. Hirwarl.
Bowling to date: Malcolm 6-0-30-0, Fraser 7-2-10-0, Lewis 3-0-8-0.

Jordan Raid

Al Hajri wins

AMMAN, July 27: Driving a Ford Bronco, Saeed Al Hajri from Qatar took a resounding victory in the BP2000 Jordan Raid, the third and half way event in the 1990 Marlboro Desert Challenge. Partnered by Britain's Fred Gallagher, Al Hajri finished ahead of Mitsubishi Pajero pilot, Sheikh Suhail Bin Khalifa from Dubai, in third overall place in a modified Nissan Patrol was the brilliant young Qatari Nasser Al Attiyya. And another Qatari Mohammed Al Mannai also in a Patrol was fourth.

This result sees Al Hajri increasing his lead in the 1990 Marlboro Desert Challenge to twelve points over Suhail Bin Khalifa. "It really has been a good day for me. This morning I was down to eight overall place, but today others had bad luck, and I had the horsepower of the Bronco," said a jubilant Al Hajri at the finish.

"Well we thought we were well placed this morning, but after the first couple of stages Saeed had built up a massive lead," said Ralhart driver Khalifa, at the finish. "At this stage we knew there was no way to catch him so we set down in battle for second overall place which we achieved." Bin Khalifa was partnered by Mubarak Al Hajri, a cousin of the winner.

Results

1. Al Hajri/Gallagher (Qatar/UK) Ford Bronco 03:30:35; 2. Khalifa/Al Hajri (UAE/Qatar) Mitsubishi Pajero 03:50:49; 3. Attiyya/Al Mannai (Qatar) Nissan Patrol 04:55:29; 4. Al Mannai/Al Mannai (Qatar) Nissan Patrol 04:02:04; 5. Al Thani/Al Mannai (Qatar) Nissan Patrol 04:11:25; 6. Al Mufli/Nasser (Jordan) Range Rover 04:34:38.

Points

Group 1: 2. Saeed Al Hajri (Qatar) 42 points; 3. Suhail Bin Khalifa (UAE) 30; 4. Abbas Al Mousawi (Qatar) 25. Group 2: 1. Hamad Bin Eid (Qatar) 38 points; 2. Mohammed Al Malki (Saudi Arabia) 17.

Moody hits ton in 26 minutes

LONDON, July 27, (Reuters): Australian Tom Moody hit the fastest cricket century of all time in just 26 minutes today.

He was batting for Warwickshire in their English county championship game against Glamorgan at Swansea. The 24-year-old Moody, who needed only 36 balls to reach three figures, comfortably beat the previous record of 35 minutes held jointly by Percy Fender of Surrey (1920) and Steve O'Shaughnessy of Lancashire (1983).

Moody's century was not, however, the fastest in terms of balls received. Fellow Australian David Hookes scored a hundred in just 34 balls for South Australia against Victoria in Adelaide in the 1982-83 season.

Moody's achievement, like that of O'Shaughnessy, was also devalued by the quality of the bowling.

Glamorgan used occasional bowlers Matthew Maynard and Tony Cottee who conceded 138 runs between them in 12 overs to hasten a Warwickshire declaration on 212 for three. That set Glamorgan a victory target of 283 off 52 overs.

Moody made an unbeaten 103, having hit seven sixes and 11 fours.

The feat occurred in the same ground where Sir Garfield Sobers hit six sixes in one over for Nottinghamshire against Glamorgan in 1968.

Senna to go for victory in German GP

HOCKENHEIM, West Germany, July 27, (Reuters): Brazilian Ayrton Senna, winner of the West German Grand Prix for the last two years, hopes to claim a hat-trick on Sunday and regain leadership of the world drivers' championship.

After finishing as the quickest driver in his McLaren during two days of tyre testing at Hockenheim last week, Senna is confident he can repeat his 1988 triumphs on the high-speed circuit near Heidelberg.

"I feel good and optimistic about the race at Hockenheim because I think we have a powerful engine and will be very well suited to the circuit," said the Brazilian who recently admitted he felt Ferrari now boasted the most competitive car in Formula One.

Senna lies second in the world drivers' standings behind his British rival Alain Prost, the world champion from France who has won the last three races in his Ferrari.

Prost's victories in Mexico, France and Britain have lifted him to the head of the championship with 41 points. Senna has 39 and Austrian Gerhard Berger, his Honda-powered McLaren team-mate, 25.

Leading times after today's opening qualifying session for Sunday's West German Grand Prix motor



Soviet runner Natalya Artemova celebrates after winning the 1,500m race on Wednesday. Right: Dan O'Brien, of the US, clears a hurdle in the men's decathlon competition of the Goodwill Games on Wednesday. (Reuters wirephoto)



US trounce Soviets

SEATTLE, July 27, (AP): The Soviets turned Yankee and, as expected, got knocked senseless.

The US pastime began last night when the Soviets made their international basketball debut against a team of American collegians. They allowed four runs in the first inning, five more in the second and lost 17-0. The game was called after 6-1/2 innings on the 10-run rule.

Nobody thought it would be pretty, least of all the Soviets.

"The Goodwill Games tournament opener makes the USSR play against the Americans, and let them have enough time to come to their senses after the game," reads the Soviet baseball brochure.

"They're coming along slowly, that's for sure," said Mike Hostetter, who played against the Soviets in 1988 while at Georgia Tech. "They're about the same as when we beat them 13-0 at Georgia Tech."

While the United States was laying it on the Soviets at Cheney Stadium in Tacoma, the Americans at Husky Stadium were superb. Hollis Conway, Dong Nordquist and Tony Barton swept the high jump; Sandra Farmer-Patrick had no trouble in the 400 hurdles as Americans were 1-2-3 again; Kenny Harrison took the triple jump; the men's and women's 400 relay teams were winners, as was the men's 1,600 meter relay.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey, who won the heptathlon here with a superb score, has an injured right leg and might miss the rest of the season. Her husband and coach, Bob Kersey, said yesterday his wife had "a second degree strain in the right quad."

"Me being very cautious, I would assume her season is over," he said. "It might be a tear."

Baseball
The Soviets did not begin to play baseball until three years ago, and there is only one baseball stadium in the entire country, in Moscow. There are no equipment manufacturers in

feet, 73-4 inches.

Nordquist, Barton and Matei all made 7-6 1-2, but Nordquist did so on his first attempt, getting the silver, and Barton cleared on his second try for the bronze. It took Matei three tries.

Harrison soared 58-1 on his last jump, edging Mike Conley, who did 57-4 1-4 on his final leap.

Dennis Mitchell outlanded Cuban Joel Isasi at the finish to win the men's 100m relay in 38.45 seconds.

Ice hockey
The US hockey team's chances took an upward turn when one of the Soviet stars, Sergei Fedorov, quit the team to join the Detroit Red Wings of the NHL.

"They've lost one of their better players. It takes a weapon out of their lineup, but they are still an excellent hockey team," US coach Jeff Sauer said.

The Soviets' first game is tomorrow against West Germany.

Track and field
The United States went over the 100 medal mark when Farmer-Patrick led the sweep of the 400. She was trailed by Schowanda Williams and Jancene Vickers.

The three American medalists in the high jump were challenged by Sorin Matei of Romania, the top-ranked jumper this year. But Conway was the only one over 7

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Andries aims for revenge in title fight

MELBOURNE, Australia, July 27, (AP): Dennis Andries had revenge on his mind today as he concluded preparations for his challenge for the world boxing council light-heavyweight title held by Australian Jeff Harding.

Harding won the title with a dramatic 12th-round knockout over veteran Andries in Atlantic City 13 months ago and makes his third defence against the former titleholder at the National Tennis Centre tomorrow night.

Andries, a professional for 14 years, will be aiming to win the WBC title for the third time in his career.

He held it from 1986-87 and again in 1989 before losing to Harding in a bout that was named Fight of the Year by the WBC.

"A loss is a loss. You can't do anything about it afterwards," Andries said today. "But I aim to do things differently tomorrow night."

Andries who declines to give his age — variously

reported between 36 and 44 — believes his experience will more than outweigh Harding's youth and strength.

"Age doesn't mean nothing. It won't come into this fight," he said. "I am in good condition, one of the best conditions of my career and Harding had better watch out because I'm the better man."

"Going into our last fight I felt weak, but this time I'm strong no one will be able to help Harding."



Andries (left) and Harding during the 'Reading of the Rules' in Melbourne today. (Reuters wirephoto)



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